

S. Arabia renews Lebanon support

JACOBSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia pledged Monday to continue backing peace efforts in Lebanon and to provide every help to reestablish security and stability in the war-torn country, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. It quoted a statement, issued after a weekly cabinet meeting, as saying King Fahd had affirmed to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi the Arab League's "commitment to continue supporting peace moves in Lebanon." The Saudi monarch also pledged the committee's "help to enable the fraternal Lebanese people regain security and stability," the statement, monitored in Moscow, said. Hrawi and Prime Minister Salim Al Hout earlier Monday ended a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia and left for Algeria, another member of the league committee. The third member is Morocco. The statement said the two sides shared the view that the Lebanese national reconciliation charter "is the only way to put an end to destruction and bloodshed and ensure Lebanon's freedom, sovereignty and independence." SPA gave no details about the Saudi-Lebanese talks. Beirut reports said Hrawi would be seeking political, military and financial aid for his government.



Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير منحازة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

Freij: PLO must approve delegates

LONDON (R) — Mayor of Bethlehem Elias Freij said Monday any Palestinian delegate to proposed peace talks with Israel not approved by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would be considered a traitor. "We the Palestinians in the occupied territories insist that any Palestinian delegation must be nominated and declared by the PLO, our sole and legitimate representative," Freij told a London news conference. Freij and Mustafa Natshe, deposed by the Israelis as mayor of Hebron in 1983, were in Britain at the invitation of the Scottish city of Glasgow. Both men have been unofficially proposed as possible delegates to the peace talks. Freij said any Palestinian not approved by the PLO would be considered "a quelling and a traitor... without explicit PLO approval, we will reject them out of hand." Freij also said Arab Jerusalem must be represented at the talks. Natshe accused Israel of delaying a decision on holding the talks because "they are waiting for the Palestinians and the PLO to lose patience and return to armed struggle." But Freij said the Palestinians would continue to resist Israeli occupation without resorting to force.

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Modrow in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow arrived Monday for talks with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev expected to focus on prospects for future trade and security after the March 18 East German elections. The TASS news agency said Modrow was met at the airport by Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov and Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamshin.

Israel convicts Yugoslav 'spy'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court Monday convicted a Yugoslav immigrant of spying for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Israeli news agency Ithim said. Victoria David pleaded guilty in the Haifa district court to charges of giving information to an enemy, having contact with an enemy and belonging to a banned organisation. Her admission was part of a plea bargain with the prosecution, Ithim said. Sentences were set for April 1. Another Yugoslav woman accused as an accomplice in the spy case, Patricia Kancovich, was deported last month without a trial.

Warsaw Pact ministers to meet

PRAGUE (R) — Warsaw Pact foreign ministers have been invited to meet in Prague March 17 to discuss European security, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier said Monday. He told a news conference that Soviet Foreign Minister Edvard Shevardnadze had reacted "with interest" to his proposal, made during a visit to Moscow last week. Dienstbier did not say which Warsaw Pact nations had confirmed they would attend the meeting, scheduled for the day before East Germany holds a general election.

Angolan rebels ask for ceasefire

LUANDA (R) — Angola's right-wing rebels asked Monday for a ceasefire in their 15-year war with the government and admitted for the first time government forces had made major advances. Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said on rebel radio he was ready to accept an immediate ceasefire, organized by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, if government forces would abandon their military gains of the past two months.

At least 9 die in clashes in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (R) — At least nine people were killed Monday in Indian-ruled Kashmir as security forces battled to quell separatist revolt, witnesses said. Officials confirmed four dead, including a sub-commanded army officer shot by one of his own men in Baramulla near the Pakistan border. Witnesses said militants shot dead four security forcesmen when Indian authorities allowed a brief break in curfew in the state's summer capital, Srinagar, and officials said a passerby died when he was caught in the cross-fire.

Iran plans to send man into space

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday it was planning to send a man into space on board a Soviet spacecraft. Tehran Radio said the plan was discussed during a meeting in Tehran last weekend of the Soviet-Iranian Joint Economic Commission.

Poindexter's trial begins

WASHINGTON (R) — The Iran-contra trial of John Poindexter — Oliver North's former boss and Ronald Reagan's former aide — began Monday as lawyers tried to find an impartial jury to hear the highly publicized case. North and former President Reagan are expected to be sworn witnesses in Poindexter's trial on five felony charges stemming from the worst crisis of Reagan's eight-year presidency. Poindexter, a 53-year-old retired rear admiral who was Reagan's national security adviser, is charged with two counts of lying to Congress, two of obstructing Congress and one count of conspiring to obstruct Congress.

King seeks EC support against Soviet influx

By a Jordan Times Staff
Writer with agency dispatches

PARIS — His Majesty King Hussein Monday began a visit to France during which he will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on the latest developments in the Middle East and the Lebanese situation and seek Paris' support for efforts to counter the threats inherent in the massive influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King's talks would cover bilateral relations, the latest developments in the international arena, the Middle East conflict, and issues of common interest.

The King was received upon arrival by a senior representative of the French government, Jordanian embassy staff in Paris, and Arab ambassadors accredited to France.

Jordanian officials quoted by Reuters and AP said the King, due to go to London Wednesday, wanted backing for the Arab position that the Soviet Jewish influx to Israel could destabilise the Middle East.

"The talks will centre on the crisis in war-torn Lebanon and Soviet Jewish immigration" to Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, an official quoted by the AP said.

"Both leaders are also expected to discuss developments on the Palestinian issue and other topics of mutual concern, the official was quoted as saying.

The official, who was not identified, added the King was to hold similar talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Another official, quoted by Reuters, said: "France, a leader of the European Community (EC), has taken many stands that were very close to Arab positions in recent years. We hope Paris can help us minimize the dangers of this migration, which will affect not only Jordan but all the Arab countries."

King Hussein, who is accompanied by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, would also meet French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement.

Last week, King Hussein toured Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to brief their leaders on the outcome of Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit held in Amman Feb. 24.

That summit of leaders from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen denounced efforts to settle Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories.

King Hussein also visited Iraq Saturday and an official announcement said the Monarch and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein discussed the immigration issue.

Arab League foreign ministers are due to meet Saturday to fix dates for visits to Washington and EC countries to voice concern over the influx of Soviet Jews.

U.S. President George Bush said Saturday that U.S. aid to Israel would be influenced by whether Tel Aviv allows new settlements in the occupied territories.

"We do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem," Bush told a news conference.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared Sunday however he would encourage the new arrivals to settle in Arab Jerusalem (see page 2).

The EC said in January Israeli settlements in the occupied territories were illegal and voiced serious concern at the possible settlement of Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza.

It said last month it welcomed the freedom given to Soviet Jews to emigrate but they should not do so at the expense of Palestinian rights.

Air race prize to help the blind

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has placed 100,000 French francs — which the Saqr Al Urdun (Eagle of Jordan) crew won in the Malaysia International Air Race 1990 — at the disposal of the Friends of Blind Society.

In a message addressed to Friends of the Blind Society President Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid Monday, the King said that the money was handed over to

him by the captain of the Jordanian team that participated in the race. "It will be allocated for the sons of the Jordanian family to undergo corner transplant operations so that they would enjoy sight," the King said.

The King expressed profound joy at the Saqr Al Urdun victory and expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation to the crew members.

PLO expects formal peace dialogue to start this month

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — A senior aide to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said the first official dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis will start this month, the Al Itihad daily reported Monday.

Bassam Abu Sharif was quoted as saying in an interview in Tunis that the agenda would include a step-by-step peace process, ending Israel's 23-year-old occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and holding elections in the territories.

Abu Sharif said Washington was now convinced that the Palestinian delegation should comprise representatives from inside and outside the occupied territories.

"All obstacles regarding Palestinian representation have been removed," he said.

But he did not say whether

Israel has approved the agenda.

Israeli officials have insisted that talks be restricted to elections on the basis of limited autonomy for the occupied territories.

Israel has also said it will not talk directly with the PLO and has insisted the Palestinian delegation comprise only figures from the occupied territories.

Israeli leaders have been deadlocked over a compromise formula proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the Palestinian delegation include people expelled from the occupied zones or who owned homes or businesses in those regions.

Israeli hardliners claim such a compromise would permit an indirect participation by the PLO.

Abu Sharif said he expected the U.S., Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers to meet in Cairo within days to seek to pave the way for the

Palestinian-Israeli dialogue by ironing out differences over who should represent the Palestinians.

Abu Sharif did not name the Palestinian team or say whether they will be clearly PLO-affiliated.

More than 30 Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories announced a demand Monday that the PLO must be involved in the planned talks.

A statement by the Palestinians was released as Israeli leaders continued to be deadlocked over accepting U.S.-backed compromises. The hardened stance by the Palestinian leaders lessens the chances of Israel accepting such compromises.

The statement by 34 Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip was circulated in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

It called for "the immediate opening, without pre-conditions, of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue" and chided the Israeli government for "placing obstacles in the way of any effort to move the peace process forward."

Yeltsin says Soviet vote results pave way for faster reform

AMSTERDAM (Agencies) — Radical reform Communist Boris Yeltsin said Monday early election results in three Soviet republics would enable the government to move faster towards reform of the Soviet economy.

Partial results from Sunday's parliamentary and local polls in the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, which account for 70 per cent of the Soviet population, show pro-reform candidates far ahead of orthodox Communist opponents.

"The vote gives the possibility to strengthen reforms and allow new measures to be taken," Yeltsin said on learning at a news conference in Amsterdam that he had been elected in the Russian Federation by a wide majority.

"I have been urging (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev to take a whole other tactic for perestroika (economic restructuring). The results show I was right," Yeltsin said.

"I will advise him to go forward faster with more strength... to press for a package of laws on tax reform and property and land to

give perestroika a legal framework," he said at the start of a seven-nation tour promoting his autobiography "Against the Grain."

Yeltsin said it was too early to say whether he would build on his victory to seek election as president of the Russian Republic, saying his decision would depend on how well other reformist candidates did.

Asked why he thought people had voted for him, he said it was a combination of a protest vote against continued economic hardship and the programmes he had presented.

"The vote was a referendum on perestroika and the results reflect the people have had it worse not better than before," he said through a translator.

According to unofficial results from Kiev, two former political prisoners were among leaders of a radical opposition alliance who swept into the Ukrainian parliament in the elections.

As a wave of national consciousness swept the second-largest Soviet republic, leaders of

the Ukraine's nationalist Rukh movement were all overwhelmingly returned, some with 80 per cent or more of the vote.

They included Rukh President Ivan Drach, a poet, and the movement's secretary Mikhail Horyn, a former dissident who was finally freed from jail in 1987 after more than 12 years.

Another Rukh leader who won a seat was former dissident and underground publisher Vyacheslav Chornovil, also freed under Gorbachev after 15 years in prison.

"Almost all our leaders are in," said Rukh official Anatoly Shubiko as provisional results came into the movement's tiny packed headquarters in central Kiev.

Elsewhere in the republic, candidates backed by the Communist Party apparatus looked likely to score substantial successes in rural constituencies.

Prime Minister Vitely Masol and Ukrainian Communist Party Second Secretary Stanislav Gurenko, both standing in rural areas, were both elected.



A woman struggles to clear her balcony of debris in east Beirut after the block was badly damaged in artillery battles.

E. Beirut enjoys rare day of peace

BEIRUT (R) — East Beirut residents enjoyed their most peaceful day in more than a month of war Monday and mediators worked to turn battle fatigue into lasting peace.

Traffic clogged the rubble-strewn streets of the Christian enclave as many of the remaining residents ventured out under cloudy skies, some for the first time in weeks.

Hundreds joined the exodus to safety which has already cut the original 900,000 population by about 120,000. More than 800 have been killed in the fighting since it erupted Jan. 31.

Troops of General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF), threatened with excommunication Friday unless they stopped fighting, silenced their guns Sunday night.

Christian political sources said mediators shuttled across barricades separating the rivals for talks on implementing a peace plan largely ignored since it was agreed last month.

The plan calls for an end to military operations and agreement on the future military role of the 10,000-strong LF. It was Aoun's demand that the LF disarm that sparked the war.

Political sources said both sides had agreed to reopen roads, disengage forces and hand over

security to the police.

An aide to Aoun said a comprehensive pact was within grasp.

Political sources said the new peace drive following the apparent failure of Aoun's drive against the LF, which controls two-thirds of the 800 square-kilometre enclave, its ports, main power station and only central bank branch.

A senior Christian political leader told Reuters Aoun had to realise he had lost military and the battles should stop while a final peace settlement was negotiated.

The sources said the warring leaders might soon form a joint leadership to run the enclave and were discussing a proposal for an enlarged Christian cabinet.

Aoun sees himself as the legitimate ruler of Lebanon after being named interim prime minister by outgoing President Amin Gemayel when parliament failed to elect a successor in 1988.

He has refused to recognise the authority of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi, now on a visit to Saudi Arabia and Algeria to seek financial and military help.

GCC to help confront Soviet immigration threat

RIYADH (AP) — Foreign ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) pledged Monday to help the Arab League block the threat of large-scale Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

"The GCC states will exert every possible effort within the framework of Arab efforts to confront this immigration," Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi told a news conference.

Alawi and his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were concluding a two-day conference at the GCC's Riyadh headquarters to formulate a common policy on Arab issues, especially Jordan's call for an emergency Arab summit on the expected flood of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Israeli officials have said they expect some 300,000 Soviet Jews to emigrate there over the next few years following Moscow's easing of travel restrictions.

The Arab states have held Washington at least partially responsible for the influx of the Soviet Jews because it has restricted visas for immigrants, thus channelling them towards Israel.

The Arab League is sending a delegation to Moscow, Washington and other key capitals in a bid to restrict Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel.

Alawi said in his opening address to the conference Sunday

that the Jewish influx has "sent shockwaves through the Arab World, not only because of the complications such immigration will add to the faltering efforts for peace, but because of the real danger it represents to Arab national security."

The GCC ministers have also discussed stalemated U.N. efforts to negotiate a peace treaty between Iran and Iraq to formally end their 1980-88 war.

Talks between the two sides, which stopped fighting Aug. 20, 1988, when a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire took effect, have stalled.

Alawi, who has visited Baghdad and Tehran recently, referred to the GCC summit resolution in Oman last December to work for a "rapprochement of Iran-Iraq views and for confidence-building between the two countries... to help the U.N. secretary-general reach a peace pact."

Another key issue was the bloodshed in Lebanon. Alawi said the GCC supported the efforts of an Arab League committee made up of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, to mediate an end to Lebanon's nearly 15-year-old civil war.

Oman will later this month host a meeting between the GCC and the European Community to discuss political and economic coordination between the two blocs (See page 6).

Arafat: U.N. likely to meet on Jewish influx

KUALA LUMPUR (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Monday the U.N. Security Council was likely to meet this month to discuss a current wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants settling in the Israeli-occupied territories.

A senior Malaysian Foreign Ministry official said Arafat told Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad moves were under way to hold an emergency council session in New York.

"Arafat believes a meeting would likely to be held some time mid or later this month," said Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Kamal Jaafar, briefing reporters on talks between the two leaders.

Diplomatic sources said the talks were being proposed by the Soviet Union in consultation with the Arab states.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), arrived in Kuala Lumpur Monday for a three-day visit.

Arab states, the PLO and the United States have objected to Soviet Jewish immigrants settling in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Arafat said he believed that the Soviet Jews would rather be settled in the United States than be moved to Israel," Kamal said.

The Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement protested strongly Monday against the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Mohammad Anwar Tahir, the movement's secretary-general, said this clearly reveals the Soviet government's callous attitude towards the Palestinian people, although Moscow was said to be sympathetic toward the PLO.

He said the movement was urging the Malaysian government and non-governmental organisations to oppose the Soviet Union's intention, while stressing unity between Malaysians and Palestinians.

An Arab League delegation has postponed a visit to Moscow to discuss the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel, a league spokesman said Monday.

He said the visit by the foreign ministers of Algeria, Syria, Iraq and Tunisia and Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi, due to start Monday, would be rescheduled at a league meeting in Tunis March 10.

The spokesman said the visit was postponed because the date was inconvenient. A source said elections on Sunday in Soviet republics were one factor.

Israel's Minister of Religious Affairs Zevulun Hammer said Monday that he asked for a legal opinion on whether the government can revoke the citizenship of Israeli Arabs who petitioned the Soviet Union to halt the flow of Soviet immigrants to Israel.

Some 4,000 Israeli Arabs have signed a petition sponsored by the "Sons of the Villages" movement saying that the current wave of immigration was at the expense of the Palestinian people.

Hammer, head of the National Religious Party, told army radio that such protests were "a blow to the heart of Israel."

He said he sent a letter Sunday asking Israel's attorney general to study whether citizenship could be withheld from anyone "who acts against the right of Jews to return to the land of Israel."

Settlers charged for killing girl

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Four Jewish settlers were charged Monday with manslaughter and aggravated assault in the shooting death of a Palestinian girl in the occupied West Bank, Israeli army radio said.

It said the four, students at a seminary in the West Bank town of Nablus, were accused of killing Itisam Bozieh, 13, and of wounding two other Palestinians in the nearby village of Kifl Harith on May 29, 1989.

The settlers, who live in the West Bank settlements of Izhar and Maale Levona, were also accused of causing damage to property and shooting a donkey, the radio said.

The charges against the four include manslaughter, assault and aggravated assault, it said. Such charges carry a maximum 20-year

sentence.

According to the charge sheet, quoted by Israeli Radio and the army radio, the settlers were on a hike during which they ignored army warnings and entered the village of Sinjil near Nablus. There, they came under a Palestinian stone-throwing attack, and their rabbi, Yitzhak Ginzburg, was injured.

The settlers withdrew while firing in the air, and transferred Ginzburg to a hospital. They later decided to change their route and visit the tomb of Biblical Joshua near Kifl Harith, the charge sheet said.

Kifl Harith residents, interviewed by the Associated Press soon after the incident, said that the settlers entered the village on foot, setting fire to wheat fields and olive groves while shooting in the air. They also vandalised five

cars.

At the centre of the village, the second current trial involving Jewish settlers. A prominent settlement leader, rabbi Moshe Levinger, is also on trial for shooting to death a Palestinian merchant in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Palestinians said some 50 settlers Monday tore up copies of the Koran at the nearby Muslim shrine of the Prophet Zi Al Kifl. Villagers pelted them with stones but the settlers were protected by soldiers.

The army denied any soldiers entered Kifl Harith Monday and said it knew nothing about any settlers entering.

Palestinians said the settlers later visited the tomb of Joshua — also in Kifl Harith — before leaving.

Kuwaiti crown prince backs elected parliament

KUWAIT (AP) — Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has declared full support for an elected parliament, but insists on firm guarantees for healthy cooperation between the legislature and the executive, according to a report published Monday.

"The existence of an assembly is in the interest of the government. It would even be injurious for us not to have a parliament," the daily Al Qabas quoted Sheikh Saad, also prime minister, as saying.

The report in the daily Al Qabas indicated that a compromise was taking shape to settle the 3-month crisis provoked by former parliament members pressing for the return of a Western-style legislature.

Al Qabas said that the remarks came during a weekend meeting with 28 former deputies campaigning for the restoration of the 50-member elected assembly, dissolved since 1986.

"I am for an elected assembly that not only acts as a watchdog, but to which (the government) will be accountable as well," Sheikh Saad was quoted as telling the pro-democracy activists during a dinner. It was the second such meeting in three weeks as part of a nationwide dialogue that the crown prince initiated in early February.

The dialogue helped defuse the situation which had been exacerbated by the leadership's avowals that Kuwait might opt for an Islamic-type, non-elected consultative council instead of the elected parliament.

His remarks were the strongest indication to date that the ruling Al Sabah family will opt for the elected parliament, the only elected legislative assembly among the Arab countries of the Gulf.

But Sheikh Saad said he would want the ground rules changed to avoid repeating the events that led to parliament being dismissed in 1976 and 1986.

"We are in agreement with you that we need an elected assembly with a new formula that ensures cooperation and enriches our democratic experiment," Sheikh Saad said.

He did not elaborate on what controls were being considered. But in replay, the former speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun stressed the need for handling any drawbacks in the previous experiments within the constitution, the newspaper reported.

"There is no parliamentary experiments which is free from drawbacks, but what is important is to pinpoint the passive aspects and handle them within the constitution," Saadoun said.

Saadoun was among the activists who insisted that a legislative body other than the elected parliament would be unconstitutional.

Kuwait's parliament was dissolved in 1986 after the MPs subjected cabinet ministers, including members of the ruling family, to fierce grilling. A similar situation occurred in 1976, but the elected body was restored after a four-year hiatus.

The second dissolution had come at the height of the Iran-Iraq war when Kuwait was tense following repeated missile attacks by the Persian state, angry that Kuwait was helping finance the Iraqi war effort.

Activists began late last year to press for recalling parliament, using diwanis to air the issue.

Diwanis are salon-type meetings in homes where all-male conversations take place on topics of the hour.

The meetings became a regular Monday night event, with activists detained by police for ignoring government warnings that they were illegal.

But there have been no diwanis meetings called since the dialogue started.

Sheikh Saad had said earlier on that the dialogue might go on for a long time before a decision was made, prompting speculation that the leadership was prepared to meet the call for the elected parliament after a cooling off period.

However, the crown prince was quoted as saying at the Saturday meeting: "The current consultations about the restoration of the parliamentary life are not intended as procrastination but rather to reach an integrated study that will be presented to the Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah."

Sudanese army recaptures mountain area

KHARTOUM (AP) — Government troops have recaptured Kurungu Abdalla area in the Nuba Hills, south Kordofan, the official Sudan News Agency reported Sunday.

The agency quoted Maj.-Gen. Al Tigran Muhammad Al Tigran, the commander of the Fifth Infantry Division, as saying that his troops Saturday forced their way into positions and fortifications of the rebels and entered the 2,300 square kilometre mountainous area of Kurungu Abdalla after four days of fierce fighting.

Speaking in Al Obeid, capital of the west Sudan Kordofan region, Tigran said the army is now mopping up the area and pursuing the fleeing rebels who left dead and equipment behind.

Casualties of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are still being counted, Tigran said without mentioning his troops losses.

The Sudanese Armed Forces Command claimed Saturday that its troops have wiped out four rebel battalions and two camps in south Sudan. The command statement gave no details.

Reporting from Al Obeid, the Agency meanwhile quoted Abdul Wahab Abdul Rahman, the commissioner of South Kordofan province, as saying that 13,310 persons have died in the region since the civil war began in 1983.

Speaking at a conference on security in the region, Abdul Rahman said 101,785 people migrated from the province to other areas as a result of the war.

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Israel to settle as many Soviet Jewish immigrants as possible in East Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday that Israel does not consider Jewish neighbourhoods in the annexed East Jerusalem as settlements and would try to direct as many Soviet Jews there as possible.

Shamir was responding to statements by U.S. leaders, among them President George Bush, who have linked American aid for immigrant resettlement with the stoppage of Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories and Jerusalem.

"There are no settlements in Jerusalem," Shamir declared in a speech to Jewish fundraisers here. "It is part of Israel and it will never be divided again."

Shamir later explained to reporters that he made the statement "because some people are talking about settlements in Jerusalem... the great, the big suburbs of Jerusalem like Gilo, and Ramot, and Ramat Eshkol — for them they are settlements."

"For us, they are part of Yerushalaim," Shamir said, using the Hebrew name for the Holy City.

Israel annexed the Arab East Jerusalem after occupying it in the 1967 Middle East war, and has declared the city — home to 350,000 Jews and 130,000 Arabs — its capital.

Most of the Western countries, including the United States, do not recognise that claim and say the status of Jerusalem should be determined in negotiations. Recent U.S. statements, however, seemed to go beyond that point by objecting to Israeli housing projects in East Jerusalem.

Tens of thousands of Israelis live in new neighbourhoods built on the outskirts of East Jerusalem since 1967. Population of Gilo alone, for instance, now reaches 30,000.

However, the Israelis living there do not get the same financial incentives — tax deduction and cheap housing — as those living in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"We don't make a distinction between West Jerusalem and East Jerusalem, for us there is one Jerusalem, our capital," Shamir said.

"We want to have as many Soviet Jewish olim (new immigrants) in Yerushalaim as possible," he said.

His statements came as the government was debating its response to U.S. proposals for starting Middle East peace talks.

U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III, trying to work out a compromise between Israel and Palestinians, who demand an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, has suggested including an East Jerusalem Arab in preliminary peace talks with

Israel.

Israeli hard-liners oppose the idea, saying it would amount to negotiating the status of Jerusalem.

Shamir said he would not agree to any talks that would question "the status of Jerusalem, which he described as 'the heart and soul of the Jewish people.'"

Referring to Baker's stand on Soviet immigration, Shamir said he hopes Baker would "reconsider his position and change it."

Last Thursday, Baker said the United States could not extend a \$400 million guaranteed loan to Israel for housing for Soviet Jews if they were settled in the West Bank or in Gaza or if Israel continued its settlement projects there.

Israel, which receives \$3 billion in annual American aid, says it needs the extra money to accommodate the wave of Soviet Jews, expected to reach 80,000 to 100,000 this year. Some Israeli officials say as many as 230,000 may come.

Shamir has created a furor in the West and the Arab World by suggesting that Israel needed to retain the occupied territories to house Soviet immigrants.

The government later said it had no policy of directing immigrants to Jewish settlements in the occupied lands, where some 200 Soviet Jews have settled in 1989.

Amid mounting Arab pro-

tests over the influx of immigrants, the government last week announced that Soviet immigration figures must be submitted to Israel's military censor prior to publication.

The order took effect just after Israeli media reports said that 22,000 Soviet Jews have immigrated between January 1989 and February 1989.

The new restrictions continued to draw fire Sunday. Left-wing legislator Yossi Sarid, head of the parliament's subcommittee on censorship, called the decision "a serious and damaging mistake."

"It creates an impression that Israel has something to conceal and it plans to direct immigrants to the territories," Sarid said.

Head of the Israeli Journalists' Association, Yigal Levi, issued a statement demanding that the ban be lifted, accusing the country's leaders of damaging the immigrants' image with their statements.

But government press office Director Yossi Olmert defended the restrictions, saying on Israel television:

"We estimate that the situation that came into being recently has endangered the mass immigration to Israel... There are various threats, things are taken out of proportion, and we have reached a conclusion that we need to impose a partial blackout."

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

India asks Egypt for help on Kashmir

CAIRO (R) — Indian Energy and Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan asked Egypt Monday to help solve the crisis in Kashmir where he said neighbouring Pakistan was supporting terrorism. "Kashmir is an integral part of India but problems come from Pakistan because it is supporting terrorism," Khan told reporters after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He arrived in Cairo Sunday. "We would like our friends, especially Egypt, to use their good offices which will help improve relations and solve this problem," he added. Egypt has good relations with both India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir. India's only Muslim-majority state, since independence from Britain in 1947, Pakistan now controls a third of the territory.

'Soviets downed 21 Israeli planes in 1970'

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet troops took active part in Egyptian-Israeli combat near the Suez Canal in 1970, gunning down 21

Jordan shipping lines company posts profit

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNSLC) is expected to make a net profit estimated at JD 3 million from its operations last year, according to JNSLC Director Yasser Al Tal.

Since it began its operations in 1980, the company, which now owns three cargo vessels, has been posting profits from its operations and has been distributing dividends at five to 10 per cent annually to shareholders.

Tal told the Jordan Times that the company, which operates Al Karamah and Hittin vessels — each with a 22,000 tonne capacity — had acquired a 16,000-tonne cargo vessel named "Jordan I" for operations to the Far East.

A celebration was held at Aqaba port Sunday following the completion of the new cargo vessel's maiden trip to the Far East, Tal said. He noted that the ship brought to Aqaba 5,444 tonnes of goods and was being loaded with 15,500 tonnes of potash and phosphate destined for Indonesia.

The company took delivery of the cargo vessel last August after it was bought from Norway for JD 6.6 million, Tal added. He said the low-fuel-consuming vessel uses up nearly 17,000 tonnes of fuel in 24 hours and cruises at the average speed of 13 knots.

The ship which along with Al Karamah and Hittin are owned by government organisations in Jordan is bound to boost the Kingdom's trade, especially with Asian countries, and is expected to save the country some \$800,000 in hard currency in each trip, Tal said.

He said the vessel's 28 crew include 16 Jordanians, four of whom are under navigational training. The company, he said, is maintaining a steady training programme to recruit Jordanian crew for its expanding fleet of vessels.

Jordan and Syria together own two cargo vessels: Yarmouk and Barada, both of which operate between Latakia in Syria and northern European ports. But these are owned directly by the governments and have no relation with the JNSLC's operations.



It is estimated that over 100 million children are deprived of their basic right to education. An international conference which opened in Bangkok Monday seeks to reaffirm the right of all to education and crystallise a framework to achieve the goal of education for all by the year 2000.

Crown Prince, in Bangkok conference address,

presents Arab concept of learning

'Education for all requires participation of all sectors'

BANGKOK (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in an address to an International Conference on "Education for All" Monday that the 20th century had witnessed the fruits of progress represented in changing cultures that had deep influence on all fields of life in a manner never witnessed before by human civilisation.

He said there had been an explosion of knowledge, technology and information and an explosion of educational systems unprecedented in human history.

This situation, the Prince said, makes it incumbent upon all countries to emphasise the far-reaching dimensions of changes within the framework of the cultural race among nations as well as cooperation among them for the welfare of the masses and the good of mankind with a view to safeguarding world peace.

The address was delivered on Prince Hassan's behalf by Minister of Education and Higher Education Muhammad Hamdan, who is leading Jordan's delegation to the conference in Thailand (See page 9).

The Crown Prince's address was made on behalf of the Arab group at the conference.

Following are major excerpts from the address:

The 20th century has witnessed cultural changes characterised by acceleration, expansion and deep influence in all fields of life in a manner never witnessed before by human civilisation; and to an extent such changes have been described as "explosions."

— An explosion of knowledge represented in the revolution in technology and information.

— An explosion to an extent that the world's population has doubled more than once during the same century.

— And an explosion of "educational systems" in such a way that they are now counted as a major industry in view of the great number of teachers and students, costs and resource allocations.

It is important to refer to these current changes and their positive aspects which entail improvements in living standards in terms of food, clothing and housing as well as health, education, communications and telecommunications. These changes also involve negative aspects represented in disparities among various countries of the world in terms of class differences, a situation which falls short of fulfilling the requirements of justice and equality. These

changes have brought about conflicts and disputes among various nations, and it should be pointed out that world wars and the long series of regional conflicts, some of which are still raging, are but one manifestation of the imbalances imbedded in the world order, particularly in socio-economic fields. This situation calls for a reassessment of national policies and the utilisation of resources instead of wasting them in a manner that threatens the human race with destruction.

This situation makes it incumbent upon us to emphasise the far-reaching dimensions of these changes within the framework of the cultural race among nations as well as cooperation among them for the welfare of the masses and the good of mankind with a view to safeguarding world peace. These dimensions can be rightly considered as lessons and experiences of the 20th century from which we greatly benefit.

Following up these cultural developments is a task too great for education to shoulder itself under any conditions. Education does not work in a vacuum or in isolation from other factors that have an bearing on the society. Therefore, we should find a tool of support in similar endeavours on the international as well as regional and national levels in the fields of politics and economy from concerned organisations and to which contributions can be made by non-governmental and public organisations.

Educational development in the Arab World was marked by a series of problems and crises represented mainly by the absence of comprehensive educational systems which were subject to alterations. Educational systems were plagued by imbalanced strategies as manifested in the trend to give preference to the young at the expense of the adult, to the male at the expense of the female and to the urban region at the expense of the rural region.

In addition, education in the Arab World was faced with the material resources which proved to be costly.

This problem is aggravated in countries which suffered longer periods under colonial rule. Such a problem is conspicuous in the Arab territories occupied by Israel where educational institutions are subject to Israel's arbitrary rules and inhuman practices as manifested in the closure of schools and universities and the deprivation of the young generation of the right to pursue education. The Israelis have been imposing many law-type rules and measures on Arab educational institutions, thus reducing their ability to fulfil the objectives of successful education. The occupation authorities have also been creating a social environment characterised by forced illiteracy which is now imposed on the Arab people in general and the young

generation in particular.

The Arab World, which was alerted to these problems during the 1970s, rushed to set up the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation, which is now creating a special committee to lay down a strategy to develop Arab education which in turn was endorsed by the 1978 Khartoum conference on Arab education.

This strategy considered education as based on a living past, rich in human values, and a present abound with the will for changes willing to attain a balance between the immense challenges and available potentials. It envisaged a prospective future to which education will make a great contribution.

This strategy reaffirmed the concept of innovation in Arab education within a comprehensive framework of development in the "Arab World based on principles that serve as the seeds for the mushrooming of a unique Arab philosophy that can define the course of innovation of the educational structure, contents and methods. This strategy is based on sound planning and scientific research and also on the pan-Arab concept and on openness in international cooperation.

This strategy considered basic education as a tool for providing education for all, giving the utmost priority to this consideration. It tackled basic education from the educational as well as social dimensions: the educational dimension entails basic educational skills for the young and old while the social dimension considers education as a right for all people on equal terms. Continued efforts during the 1990s aimed at achieving Education for All — which means providing one fifth of the world population with basic educational skills to improve their living standards — represent a major goal. Therefore, it is incumbent on all parties to cooperate for achieving this objective, which coincides with the advent of international détente and a new human era with the approach of the 21st century.

Confronting the real problem of education, which is closely linked with the future of nations, warrants that all of us work together to deal with educational issues at all levels. It also requires coordination among concerned ministries and organisations within each country because the responsibility of education goes beyond responsibilities of ministries of education. All social sectors should be brought to participate in this endeavour in order to make available the requirements for learning and education in a manner that would guarantee the right for all people to education and to ensure the proper vehicle to follow up the work and outcome of this conference.

Regent, Indian team review bilateral ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the royal court Monday visiting Speaker of India's Lower House of Parliament Rabi Ray and discussed with him a range of issues, including the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into Palestine.

Ray told Prince Hassan that India fully understands the question of Jewish settlement on occupied Arab land and which, he described, as constituting a grave danger to the peace process in the region.

Prince Hassan paid tribute to Indian-Jordanian relations and referred to the common concerns of the countries of the developing

world. He stressed the importance of exchanges among developing countries in the fields of expertise and information.

Prince Hassan also stressed the need for boosting Indian-Jordanian cooperation at parliamentary levels.

Ray earlier met with Taher Al Masri, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, with whom he reviewed the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Masri, expressed Jordan's appreciation of India's support for Arab causes and its role within the Non-Aligned Movement.

Ray told Masri that his country

was determined to support Arab causes and was interested in maintaining a high level of cooperation with Jordan.

Following the talks in Amman, Rabi Ray visited South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley region. He visited the King Hussein Bridge and was briefed on traffic between the West Bank and Jordan. He was also briefed by local officials on arrangements for the transportation of West Bank products across the bridge.

Later, Ray and the delegation accompanying him and Jordanian officials, toured the Dead Sea area and the other tourist sites in the region.

Freedoms committee pursues efforts for prisoner release

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Freedoms and Citizens Rights Committee of the Lower House of Parliament is maintaining contacts with the government to secure the release of about 35 political prisoners, according to the committee's rapporteur, Salim Al Zoubi.

Zoubi made the statement following a committee meeting during which the subject of political prisoners was taken up along with issues related to Jordanians dismissed from work for political reasons.

He said that all aspects related to political prisoners were discussed and agreement was reached on pursuing discussions with the government, which will be urged on to secure their release. "We hope that the government will respond favourably to the committee's requests and secure their release as soon as possible," Zoubi said.

Last month His Majesty King Hussein ordered the release of 29 political prisoners in a continuing drive towards political liberalisation.

Two of the released prisoners were foreigners, but all had served at least half of their sentences ranging from 10 to 15 years. Those released included pris-

oners convicted of arms smuggling and other offences as well as membership of banned or illegal organisations.

According to government officials who preferred anonymity, there are at least 40 still imprisoned after being convicted of bombing or attempted assassinations.

Zoubi quoted the committee as stressing the need for the immediate reinstatement of dismissed employees and said that the committee had received appeals from at least 1,000 persons dismissed from their jobs on political grounds. The Ministry of Education has reapportioned more than 90 teachers who had been dismissed for political reasons.

Health, environment committee

The House's Health and Environmental Health Committee held a meeting, which was attended by two former health ministers, Zeid Hamzeh and Zuhair Malhas, as well as the president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), to discuss the National Medical Institution (NMI) law, and a proposal for setting up a

hospital in Ajloun. After discussions, the committee decided that the hospital in Ajloun was sufficient for the needs of the Ajloun district provided that some improvements were made, according to committee Chairman Ahmad Innab. He said the committee would continue discussions on the NMI law at future meetings.

Education committee

The Lower House's Education Committee also held a meeting Monday to discuss the higher education law with particular attention to an article on the conditions for the establishment of government community colleges in the Kingdom.

Committee Chairman Abdul Latif Arabiyat said that the committee emphasised the need for all diplomas issued by government controlled community colleges to be of equal standard. He said that the committee wants to pursue all issues related to educational development and courses designed to upgrade the qualifications of the Ministry of Education's employees to ensure higher standard of education for all students.

Amnesty visits Swaga

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ian Martin, secretary-general of the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International, Monday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and the Swaga prison and was briefed by PSD Director Fadel Ali Fheid on treatment of and services offered to inmates.

Fheid briefed Martin and a delegation accompanying him on the various vocational and other services offered to the prisoners in a bid to provide training capabilities for benefit in the future. Martin and the delegation

toured the various sections of the prison, including vocational training facilities.

Fheid meets U.N. expert

Fheid also met Monday with a representative of the United Nations regional office for combating crime. The PSD director briefed him on the PSD's efforts to provide rehabilitation services to prisoners.

Following the meeting, which was attended by U.N. resident representative in Amman Ali Attiga, the U.N. official visited Swaga prison.

Consumer corporation pledges better services

AMMAN (Petra) — The government's decision last Saturday to increase customs exemptions on goods imported for the Civil Servants Consumer Corporation (CSCC) will enable the corporation to raise the level of its services and diversify imported products, according to CSCC Director Mohammad Tawfiq Al Nasser.

The Cabinet decided at its Saturday session to increase to JD 6.5 million from JD 4.5 million the annual quota of imported commodities which can be exempt from duty.

"The government's decision is bound to have a positive effect on the corporation's services and make available various products at reasonable prices for the benefit of employees, classified in the limited income category," he said.

The decision was also a translation of the government's declared policy of boosting the services of the corporation for government employees.

Supply ministry to import 18,000 tonnes of meat

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Monday announced the signing of an agreement with a local company to import 18,000 tonnes of fresh mutton (lamb meat) and said this quantity would be enough for the country's needs for a whole year.

A ministry statement said that the Jordan Trading Company would start importing meat as of March 22, and shipments would be sufficient for the market, especially during the coming holy month of Ramadan.

According to the ministry statement, which did not name the exporting country, details about prices and centres for selling the imported meat would be issued soon.

In the wake of the recent upheavals in Eastern Europe, meat shipments from Romania and Bulgaria to Jordan stopped and the Kingdom had to import additional quantities of frozen meat as well as fish and poultry to make up for the shortage in the local market.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour Ministry study covers 10 fields

AMMAN (J.T.) — A well-informed source at the Ministry of Labour said Monday that the ministry had finished a study covering ten major fields of employment so as to organise Jordanian and foreign labour force. The study, to be released within two days, provides percentage for the size of foreign labourers in each of the studied sectors. The source told the Jordan Times that the study took into consideration the conditions of foreign and Jordanian labourers, the prospect of replacing foreign labourers by Jordanians, and the time needed to train Jordanians to take up jobs. The ministry, the source said, will prepare similar studies covering all other sectors in March.

Law on judiciary sent to House

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has endorsed an amendment to a law on the independence of the judiciary and referred it to the Lower House of Parliament for debate and approval. The amendment empowers the judicial council, upon recommendations from the minister of justice, to appoint lawyers as judges at the court of cassation and the higher court of justice. The amendment also provides for an extension of a mandate of the heads of these courts until they are 72 years of age.

Talks on training opens in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan is participating in the fourth conference of training and administrative development which opened in Cairo Monday. The conference, attended by 250 officials and experts, will discuss research papers on Arab examples of administration, the effects of Arab gatherings on Arab administrative thinking, and other related subjects.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oils and watercolours by Jordanian artist Youssef Baddawi at the gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental — 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Hassan Jalal at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabulsi at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Graphic art exhibition by Ne'mat Al Nasser at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Sihan Al Saoudi at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture by Prof. Dr. Michael Meisner on "Raqas on the Explanations: Recent Excavations on the Residence of Haroun Al Rashid" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

7 Iraqi artists display works

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of seven Iraqi painters opens Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in cooperation with the Saddam Arts Centre in Baghdad.

The exhibition, held under the patronage of Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddine, includes 27 works by Shaker Hassan Al Saad, Salem Al Dabbagh, Rafi' Al Nasri, Saadi Al Kaabi, Ali Taleb, Mohammad Muhraddin and Ismail Fattah. The exhibition will run until April 5, daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except



One of the works by Saadi Al Kaabi

Fridays. At 6:00 p.m. Thursday at the Shoman Foundation Gallery,

Ismail Fattah will lecture in Arabic on his art and its development during the last two years.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

JOINTLY WITH THE JORDANIAN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENT, ANNOUNCES
A SEARCH FOR QUALIFIED JORDANIAN CANDIDATES BY THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENT
CANDIDATES MUST HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXCELLENT
TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITIES AND
ORGANISATIONAL ABILITY
EXPERIENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERING POSITIONS
AND HIGHLY DESIRABLE QUALITIES IN COMPETITIVE AND NEGOTIABLE
THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD SEND THEIR APPLICATIONS AND RESUME
TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
MANAGEMENT POSITION - SUPERVISOR - AMMAN - JORDAN
APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENT

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Back to where it belongs

EGYPT CAN offer more than one good reason to have the headquarters of the 22-member Arab League moved back to Cairo. To begin with, the reason for the transfer of the Arab League's headquarters to Tunis in the first place has already dissipated with the return of Egypt to the league fold. The Arab countries had in effect by-passed the era of the 1979 Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel when they decided to reverse their original verdict to exclude Cairo from the Arab League organisation. Secondly, the existing premises of the Arab League in Tunis is so decrepit that it would cost the Arab countries many millions of dollars to put it straight. The sight of the existing Arab League building, whether from the outside or the inside, is so deplorable that it would be more cost-effective to transfer it to its original headquarters where much effort has been done of late to refurbish it from top to down.

But these physical and material matters, as important as they are, are not the sole issues to consider when determining the future venue of the Arab League. As a matter of fact, the Arab League needs more than a new location and new premises to put it once again on the right course. But by moving it back to its original base, there would be fresh opportunities to reinvigorate its spirit and stamina in order to become better positioned to cope with the ever increasing challenges and dangers poised at the footsteps of the Arab Nation and Order everywhere. That the Arab League urgently need reenergising and restructuring is a foregone conclusion. As it is presently constituted and operated it resembles more a dispirited and archaic organisation that urgently need blood transfusion on every level and shape and form than anything else.

Yet, with further consolidation of the three principal Arab groupings, namely the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, there would be cause and justification to maintain some limited Arab League presence in Tunis and Riyadh in addition to the Cairo headquarters, which will of course be the mainstay of the entire Arab League structure. And in deference to the new realities in the Arab World, a formula needs to be devised which would allow for a periodic rotation of the post of secretary general of the Arab League among the three Arab regions in order to offer each Arab formation an opportunity to preside over the Arab League. The current practice of keeping one secretary general on seemingly indefinite basis has got to change to assure continued and renewed vigour in the Arab League.

But be that as it may, it is high time to bring the Arab countries' decision to bring Egypt to the Arab fold to its logical conclusion by taking the headquarters of the Arab League back to where it originally and naturally belongs.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday called the attention of the Arab countries to the fact that changes in Europe could bring about new challenges for the Arab Nation. It said in an editorial that the Arabs can and should start their offensive to make united Europe understand that Arab World is more than a vast deposit of oil. It is a rich and vast area of land with huge funds deposited in European countries and could serve as probably the largest market for European goods, the paper added. The paper said that the end of the cold war in Europe could bring about new alliances and new challenges for other countries. The United States which had been at loggerheads with Japan over trade issues could find itself in the same trench with Japan in confrontation with Europe, the paper pointed out. But on the whole, it said, the new line-up is bound to bring with it new challenges for the Arab World especially in terms of relations with Europe. The paper said that Europe should seize this precious opportunity and base its future ties with the Arabs on very strong foundation which can bring good and fruitful results to both sides. For this reason, it said the Arab countries ought to make new moves on the international scene in general and in the European arena in particular to ensure very fruitful Arab-European cooperation in the coming decades.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily columnist Fakhri Kawar voices strong criticism of the Ministry of Supply for its continued drive to raise prices; and calls on the ministry to openly declare its intentions so that the public can understand the situation. The writer notes that the ministry lately hiked the prices of imported cigarettes, following rises in the prices of oil, tea, and butter, thus imposing further burdens on the citizens at a time when the country is suffering from a chronic economic crisis. The writer says that foreign cigarettes are like other commodities on the market attracting some buyers; and are being smoked because they are of certain quality perhaps far higher than some of the locally made cigarettes. By raising the price of foreign cigarettes, the writer adds, the ministry is forcing citizens to smoke locally-made ones without even bothering to force the cigarette companies in Jordan to improve the quality of their product. The writer also criticises the Ministry of Supply for ignoring the citizens' needs of meat by stopping altogether meat imports, but without providing an acceptable alternative. He says that by stopping the importation of meat the ministry has now added to the army of around 500 more unemployed persons.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily on Monday called on the Arab countries to beware of the Israeli plans and Shamir's procrastinations. Shamir and the Zionist leaders can never and will never give back to the Arabs any inch of Arab land in Palestine through negotiations, the paper said. This fact should be understood as we watch how Israel continues to stall and to delay meetings with the Americans and delay taking decisions about holding elections and projected dialogues with the Palestinian people, said the paper.

Of changing colours on Parliament floor

By Musa Keilani

Dr. Musa Keilani is a former Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain and Sudan. He has written four books on politics and communications and contributed analytical articles to Jordanian and Arab newspapers. Today he resumes his column in the Jordan Times after an absence of three years.

SOME friends of mine in Amman made a bet. Seventy per cent of the Jordanian members of parliament will fail in case they re-run for parliament in the next elections.

The logic behind that is the parliamentarians' performance for the last three months has been disappointing. Some of them showed themselves to be totally unaware of how the government machinery works. Others revealed their fondness for classical Arab rhetoric which takes precedence over tackling local issues whether financial or administrative. But others were even more shocking when they categorically admitted that their local district and its interests should take priority over pan-Arab or overall Jordanian interests.

It was ridiculous to see how the TV camera makes some of them change tone, accent and even political stand.

A strong feeling of disappointment and pity is dominating many Jordanians: Is this really the parliamentary life many have dreamt of? Is this calibre of parliamentarians really representative of our society, which prides itself as one of the most sophisticated Arab societies. Does genuine democracy require those MPs to fall into the trap of the diversionary tactics of bickering and recrimination while being completely oblivious of the real core of our problems.

There is a strong feeling among many Jordanians that the political make-up heavily used by some candidates during their election campaigns started to melt after their victory, exposing a strange mix of cosmetics. Therefore, it was not much of a surprise that some MPs moved their residence to Amman in order to avoid the embarrassment of facing their constituency leaders with their accusing fingers!

Were we mistaken when we assumed that Jordan was always a step ahead of the eye of the hurricane? With such MPs, for how long can Jordan stand immune to the negative effects of the political upheaval taking place all over Eastern Europe, Latin America and some parts of Africa?

Hypothetically had the Jordanian people followed the example of the Hungarian people and asked to postpone the parliamentary elections for two years in order to familiarise themselves with all

the colours of the political rainbow in Jordan, the Jordanian parliament would have been formed in a totally different way.

The parliament is still in its first session, and so far some members changed their political stands and ideological affiliation with the same ease they change their neck-ties.

With the exception of Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat and the group he represents, we do not feel that our representatives have a well-crystallised group vision of how our future should be or would be.

Was this embryonic experiment of parliamentary life a new breed of political vaccine to immunise the people in this Kingdom against what is being carried by the strong winds of drastic changes sweeping the entire world?

So far, our MPs busied themselves with re-reading piles of amendments and bye-laws or with delivering eloquent verbal condemnations and sermons. But unfortunately they seem to be distancing themselves from the pulse of their constituents.

But after the last six months of activity, with so many political casualties, who is the real winner? It is the prime minister, and his government, who have proved themselves one or two steps ahead of members of parliament.

Algeria's private sector revolts against bureaucracy

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

ORAN, Algeria — With millions of athletic youths in a country offering little in the way of soccer, track or running shoes, Bachir Benamar was sure he had a winner when he applied for a permit to build a sports-shoe factory in 1986.

Four years later, only birds inhabit his shiny new factory in an industrial zone outside Oran, a victim of what he says is prejudice and bureaucracy in the bloated public sector.

Before political liberalisation swept Algeria after youth riots in October 1988, Benamar might have been content to write a protest note to the chamber of commerce.

Now he is one of the thousands of private entrepreneurs in open revolt against the centrally-planned economic system that has dominated Algeria since inde-

pendence in 1962.

The revolt, including a February 15 March through Algiers and a week-long lock-out of tens of thousands of workers in the western Oran region, has fuelled an already fiery debate on sweeping economic reforms launched by President Chadli Benjedid.

"Are they seeking to destabilise the public sector, the spine of economic and social recovery?" asked a group of state trading monopolies which the private bosses, now grouped in an employers' union, want disbanded.

Pariahs of economic development in the 1960s and 1970s, the private entrepreneurs are showing unprecedented militancy in the battle for reform raging within the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

"Algeria is at the crossroads," said Ahmed Bensadoun, Oran's textile king and president of the Oran chamber of commerce

which organised the mid-February lock-out.

"This creates tension between those who want to prolong, directly or indirectly, the old collectivist system, and those who want a system of individual initiative."

Chadli launched reforms in the mid-1980s to spur productivity by dismantling the centralised system put in place by his predecessor Houari Boumedienne, giving state firms autonomy over management and finance.

The reforms have acquired greater urgency in recent years because of mounting social unrest and deepening economic crisis caused in large part by a crushing foreign debt burden that absorbs most oil and gas revenue.

The programme of Prime Minister Mohamed Hamrouche calls for abolishing state trading monopolies, putting public and private firms on the same footing,

and attracting foreign investment.

But the reforms have only partially been put into practice because of resistance from FLN hardliners and entrenched interests who feel their livelihood is threatened.

"Collectivists are blocking the wheels. They are leaving the state in the hands of total bureaucracy. We industrialists want those wheels to turn," Bensadoun said.

Bensadoun said tens of thousands of textile jobs could be lost in the Oran region because the state yarn monopoly Enaditex does not have enough imported raw material to go round.

"We are being asphyxiated," said Farid Ben Hassel, one of the organisers of the February 14 founding conference in Algiers of the national council of Algerian employers. Since spending 20 million di-

nars (\$2.5 million) to build his factory, Benamar has waited in vain for the hard currency he needs to import equipment. "They tell me it is still in committee, always in committee," he said.

Private factory owners want their own hard currency allocations, direct access to foreign and domestic suppliers and the go-ahead to pursue their own investments.

Bensadoun said that under the current system the private sector, which represents 40 per cent of non-hydrocarbons gross domestic product, was not getting its fair share of scarce hard currency. He favoured rescheduling the country's \$24 billion foreign debt to make more dollars available for imports.

The government has consistently rejected debt rescheduling on the grounds that it would weaken Algeria's standing in

world financial markets.

State firms have reacted angrily, calling the private entrepreneurs sharks bent on developing the public sector and its ideals of social justice.

Enaditex employees said they were determined to defend their firm against "manoeuvres that aim to destabilise the national economy and place its levers in the hands of special interests."

Bureaucrats said they resented being made scapegoats for the country's economic crisis and complained of their own bad pay and working conditions.

Officials from Chadli downwards say the reforms are designed to strengthen — not weaken — the public sector but admit that decades-old attitudes are hard to change.

Bensadoun concurs. "You can't wipe out 25 years of attitudes by laws. That is our struggle," he said.

Thatcher faces massive rebellion over poll tax

By Peter Gregson
Reuters

LONDON — The last time there was a poll tax in England, the peasants revolted and the chancellor of the exchequer was lynched.

Six hundred years later, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's modern equivalent of funding local services by a levy on all adults is sparking a powerful, if less bloodthirsty, reaction.

Only a month before a "poll tax" comes into force in England and Wales, hostilities have broken out between the cabinet and local authorities across the land charged with enforcing it.

In a dramatic split, 18 veteran Conservative local councillors in Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's Oxfordshire constituency quiet the party in protest at the tax.

In bitter exchanges between London and town halls around Britain, Environment Secretary and poll tax supremo Chris Patten accused local councils of padding their budgets and telling wealthy taxpayers to blame the new tax.

Warning councils to curb their spending plans, Patten said budgets announced so far would have a "devastating" effect on inflation, which is currently running at about eight per cent a year and is the government's biggest economic headache.

Even Conservative councils in Southern England, heart of the government's support, attacked proposed figures for the tax as inadequate, said it would be difficult to collect and called on the government to pump money from central funds into education and social services to keep individual costs down.

Demonstrators broke up council meetings in three different areas last week as they met to set a poll tax figure.

Patten wrung a billion pounds (\$1.67 billion) out of the treasury last October to soften the impact of the tax, but there is little prospect of further funds with the government in economic trouble and an austerity budget likely on March 20.

A recent opinion poll found that one person in three rated the poll tax as currently the top issue of public concern.

With no sign of a solution, Conservative politicians met Thatcher on Thursday to voice their concern that anger over the tax could cost the party the next election, due by mid-1992.

Right-wing member of parliament Tony Marlowe called it "a political cyanide pill." He said the government had declared "war on the people" and warned that the electorate would take their revenge.

Former cabinet minister John Biffen called the tax the govern-

ment's "titanic." The pro-Conservative Times newspaper declared in an editorial it was "the rock on which the government is most likely to founder at the next general election."

In parliament, Thatcher has been assailed by mutinous Conservatives fearful of losing their seats as well as opposition critics.

What is also being whispered behind her back is that it could cost Thatcher the Conservative leadership if the rebellion gets much stronger. The government is expected to suffer severe setbacks in local elections in May.

Thatcher has long wanted to scrap the out-moded system of rates, taxes levied by local councils to pay for community services based on the value of property, and bring in a broader system which would boost local government income.

Her alternative, unveiled in the 1987 election campaign, was "to abolish the unfair domestic rating system and replace rates with a fairer community charge."

The community charge was passed by parliament in January despite a vote against it by 31 of the government's 99-member majority. It orders that "a fixed rate for local services" must be paid by everyone over 18 — hence the "poll tax" label.

Introduced last year in Scotland, where at least one in 10 people have so far refused to pay, it comes into force in England and Wales on April 1.

About 42 million Britons will be liable to pay the tax, more than double the number of former ratepayers.

Thatcher defends the tax on the grounds that more people will pay for services enjoyed by all. She has refused to bow to calls to drop or change it, saying: "Rating was the most bitterly unfair tax, only paid by about half the people who vote in local elections."

Critics argue that it is unfair and unjust. "The poor are the biggest losers since it is not based on ability to pay," said a spokesman for the opposition Labour Party noting that people in Labour's northern strongholds will be hardest hit.

As with rates, each council sets its own poll tax level. But the government said the national average should be 278 pounds (\$464) a head. Furious councils said this was far too low and are instead setting an average of 370 pounds (\$620).

Such a figure will make millions of voters worse off and was slammed by Thatcher as an unacceptable rip-off.

Patten said councils had given themselves a 35 per cent rise in spending money, the equal of a two per cent rise in income tax. Such a sum would boost inflation by 0.5 per cent, he added.

Exacerbating public anger is the fact that some of the lowest poll tax figures are in some of the country's richest areas.

The tax in London's wealthy Western district, which includes parliament and the prime minister's 10 Downing Street home, will be about 195 pounds (\$325).

Just across the river Thames in neighbouring Lambeth, which includes tracts of public housing estates not found in Westminster, the figure climbs to 650 pounds (\$1,085).

Consolation for Thatcher may come from history: The government was forced to abandon the last poll tax by the peasants' revolt of June, 1381. But within three months it had crushed the serfs' rebellion and renege on other concessions.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Japanese-Jordanian ties growing stronger; Japan recognises Jordan's economic needs

The following is the full text of an address made by Ambassador Tadayuki Nishiyama of Japan at the Jordan University of Science and Technology on March 4, 1990

President Ajlouni, distinguished faculty members, ladies and gentlemen:

I FEEL both honoured and privileged to have been invited to speak before you today.

I arrived in Jordan just over a month ago and it is my great pleasure that I was given this opportunity earlier in my tenure of office. Although this is the first time I serve in Jordan, that does not necessarily mean that I did not know Jordan before I came here. In fact, between 1968 and 1972, I was at the Japanese mission to the United Nations in New York. As you may know, you sit in the U.N. conference in the alphabetical order of the name of the country, and Japan and Jordan are always neighbours. I had constant opportunities to talk to your diplomats at that time. In 1968 when I first attended the General Assembly of the United Nations, it was less than a year after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 war. It is a source of great regret that after more than 20 years Israel still continues to occupy these territories.

Today, I would like to speak briefly on the state of Japan-Jordanian relations.

Before I came to Jordan, I was consul general of Japan in Honolulu, Hawaii. Coming from Hawaii to Jordan is quite a change not only in the climate, but in the history of our relations. The consulate general of Japan in Hawaii has a history of more than 100 years. It was established in 1886 at the time when Hawaii was a kingdom. In contrast, the Japanese embassy in Amman was established in 1974, and has a history of only 15 years. I came from one of the oldest diplomatic establishments Japan has overseas, to one of the youngest.

There are other contrasts too. Today, in Hawaii one quarter of the population is Japanese-American who are Americans of Japanese ancestry. Besides, there are over one million Japanese tourists visiting Hawaii every year. There are 8 to 10 flights every day between Japan and Honolulu. On the other hand, we have less than 200 Japanese living in Jordan, and the Japanese visitors to Jordan are less than 4,000 per year. There is no direct air service between Japan and Jordan.

However, there is one common feature between Hawaii and Jordan, that is, Japan is enjoying friendly and cordial relationship with Jordan as we have with Hawaii, despite its brief history and other seemingly unimpressive figures.

Since we established respective embassies in Tokyo and Amman in 1974, His Majesty King Hussein visited Japan four times, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited Japan twice and the Crown Prince of Japan, the present Emperor, visited Jordan in 1976. Thus the Japanese Imperial Family and the Jordanian Royal Family have established and maintained very warm relationship with mutual respect and friendship.

Japan and Jordan also share the same values and principles in foreign policies. Japan's position, for example, on the Middle East peace, which is Jordan's most serious concern, is identical with that of Jordan. Japan maintains that peace in the Middle East should be achieved based on the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 through the following principles: (1) withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied since 1967, (2) recognition of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state, and (3) recognition of Israel's right to exist. Such peace should be realised with due consideration to the legitimate security requirements of the countries in the region.

Peace should be attained through negotiations. Japan supports the convening of an international conference as a framework for the negotiations. The PLO represents the Palestinian people, which is a party directly concerned with the Middle East peace problem, and its participation should be secured in the process of the Middle East peace negotiations including an international conference.

The Japanese government has expressed its concern over the recent suggestions of the need for settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories, and has reaffirmed its position that any settlement in the occupied territories has no legal validity and is not acceptable.

The settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories is detrimental to the achievement of Middle East peace and, therefore, the Japanese government strongly hopes that the government of Israel will refrain from such settlement in the occupied territories.

Aware of the importance of the Palestinian problem, Japan also has extended its cooperation to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians. Since 1956, Japan has made a contribution of cumulative amount of \$140 million in cash and food through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and in 1988 we made additional contribution of \$7 million dollars for an emergency relief programme including projects related to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There are several projects in Jordan, which Japan has financed through UNRWA in recent

held in Tokyo to attract Japanese investment to Jordan, and I very much hope that these efforts on both parts of Jordan and Japan will bear fruit.

So far, I spoke about a remarkable progress we have made in the relation between our two Royal families, in our political relations and in our economic and business relations.

The fourth area of our close relation is Japan's cooperation in Jordan's effort for her economic and social development. Japan's economic cooperation with Jordan has been extended in the form of concessional loans, grants and technical cooperation.

Since 1974, over \$500 million in concessional government loans have been extended to Jordan. These Japanese concessional loans have helped the development and expansion of telephone and telecommunications network in Jordan, and the development of roads and irrigations. The road between Jerash and Irbid, now under construction, has been financed by a Japanese concessional loan. Last Wednesday, I signed an agreement with your planning

"Since 1974, over \$500 million in concessional government loans have been extended to Jordan. These Japanese concessional loans have helped the development and expansion of telephone and telecommunications network in Jordan, and the development of roads and irrigations. The road between Jerash and Irbid, now under construction, has been financed by a Japanese concessional loan. Last Wednesday, I signed an agreement with your planning minister to extend up to 49 million Jordan dinar in loan for Jordan's reform programme of the educational and training system."

years. One example is the construction of schools in the refugee camp in Jerash. Japan has also extended technical cooperation at the Wadi Seir Vocational Training Centre, where Japanese experts are providing vocational training with equipment granted by Japan. In addition to Japan's cooperation through UNRWA, Japan also started the contribution to Japan-Palestine Development Fund established in 1988 in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the purpose of economic and social development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The business and economic relations between Japan and Jordan have also been dramatically expanded. In 1964, for example, Jordan's export to Japan was 0.1 million Jordan dinar, but in 25 years it expanded 66 times to 6.6 million dinar in 1988. Jordan's import from Japan in 1964 was 2.3 million dinar, but in 1984 it reached 79 million dinar. Jordan's export items to Japan are mainly phosphate and potash, while your imports from Japan include mainly machinery, cars and electronic products.

Jordan has been working hard to encourage foreign investment of the private sector in Jordan. When His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited Japan in 1988, an investment seminar was

minister to extend up to 49 million Jordan dinar in loan for Jordan's reform programme of the educational and training system.

Grants and technical cooperation have also been extended to Jordan. Under these programmes, about 25 Jordanian students come to Japan every year to attend technical training courses, 16 Japanese experts and 22 volunteers are teaching in Jordan at present and various machineries and equipments have been donated. A number of surveys have been made by Japanese experts in cooperation with Jordanian experts to draw programmes for comprehensive regional development, water resources development and other projects.

Among the countries of the Middle East, Jordan is not the largest recipient of Japan's official development aid, but in terms of per capita amount, Jordan ranks by far the first in the Middle East.

The fifth area of our relation is in the field of cultural and academic exchanges which have also been expanded in recent years. A number of cultural events related to Japan were held in Jordan, such as kimono shows and Japanese participation in the Jerash Festival. Ikebana, or Japanese flower arrangement courses are currently held in Am-

man. Last October, an exhibition of Jordan Culture was opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor in Tokyo, and during this year this exhibition will be held in other parts of Japan.

Leaders of Japan, Jordan and other Arab countries held in Amman last September a conference called Japan-Arab Dialogue and Japan-Jordan Dialogue, where they exchanged views on how to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between Japan and Jordan and between Japan and the Arab World.

This is the present state of relations between Japan and Jordan. It is most gratifying and encouraging to note that despite the short period of time of our relations, Japan and Jordan have developed most friendly and closest ties. There is no doubt that this cordial relation between Japan and Jordan is of mutual benefit to both of us. Japan wishes to maintain and promote further the valuable relation with Jordan, the key country in the Middle East. Japan also wishes to support and extend our cooperation to Jordan for her efforts in maintaining the stability and in advancing the social and economic development.

We all realise that the expansion of friendly relation between the two nations does not come with a natural flow of events. There should be constant and positive efforts on the part of each country if they wish to cultivate and develop closer ties to the benefit of both peoples.

In this regard, there is one aspect of our relation which I would like to mention.

Among the Japanese, there still exists the image of Jordan that is far from reality. They tend to apply a stereotyped image of the Middle East like desert, heat and war to Jordan. And I am afraid that the image of Japan among the Jordanian people is also scanty and stereotyped. One of my responsibilities as Japanese ambassador to Jordan is to promote Japan in Jordan, but I feel strongly that it is also my duty to promote Jordan among the Japanese people.

Recently, after I arrived in Jordan, I wrote to my friends saying that it is winter in Amman and we have snow here. I am afraid that this surprised many of my friends. I also sent, in a way intentionally, photographs which I hoped may serve to rectify the wrong image of Jordan among my friends. One of them is a picture of my wife standing in front of the residence wearing a fur coat, and another is a picture taken at Jordan Valley full of green leaves and colourful wild flowers.

I hope that they now have realised that Jordan has the winter, beautiful greenery and a number of archaeological and historical sites which testify to the long history of rich culture in Jordan. Already my letters and photographs have produced a promising result. At least two of my friends wrote to me that they will be visiting Jordan in the near future.

There is also a by-product of my letter which I sent to my friends in the United States; one American newspaper quoted my letter in its article and introduced



Snow-capped Mt. Fuji as seen during the cherry blossom season in April.

some features of Jordan. There may be of course be more serious ways to promote mutual understanding between our two peoples; more frequent dialogues between the political, business and academic leaders, further exchange of peoples, scholars and students and promotion of tourism. There may be a number of other plans to promote mutual understanding between us.

But what I would like to stress here is that the progress of our relation can only be attained by a realistic and step-by-step effort by both sides of the Japanese and Jordanian people.

NOW I would like to touch briefly on the state of science and technology in Japan. Since I am among the scholars and students pursuing the development of science and technology, I hope this subject is not quite out of order. Let me first try to explain briefly the development of science and technology in Japan.

The modern science and technology started in Japan around 120 years ago and Japanese scientists began making scientific discoveries and innovations of historic importance. For example, Kitazato Shibusaburo perfected the tetanus sorotherapy technique in 1890, Shiga Kiyoshi discovered dysentery bacillus in 1889, Takamine Jokichi discovered adrenaline in 1900, Nagaoka Hantaro created a model of the atom in 1903, Hata Sahachiro discovered Salvarsan in 1908 and Suzuki Umetero discovered vitamin B1 in 1910.

In the field of engineering, many important inventions were made in Japanese laboratories which contributed to the development of electromagnetic technology. For example, Honda Kotaro invented KS Steel in 1917, Yagi Hidetsugu invented the Yagi antenna in 1926, Kato Yasaburo and Takei Takeshi invented ferrite in 1930, and Mishima Tokushichi invented the MK magnet in 1932.

In the field of basic science, a number of Japanese scientists were awarded the Nobel Prize for their achievements. Scientists like Yukawa Hideki, Tomonaga Shinichiro, Esaki Reona, Fukui

Kenichi and Tonegawa Susumu may be known to you.

Thanks to the efforts of these people and others, Japan has achieved high technological capabilities.

The development of science and technology has been given one of the top priorities of Japan's policy. This is because science and technology are now closely related to the potential of social and economic development of the country. Japan's research and development expenditures have increased steadily in recent years. Government projects for research and development occupies 20 per cent of the total expenditure, while the private sector accounts for 80 per cent of the expenditure. These figures clearly show that technological development is undertaken largely by private industries in Japan.

In order to give you an idea of where Japanese technological capabilities will lie in the future, I would like to cite a few examples of large scale research and development projects that are now under way in Japan.

One significant area is space development. A number of satellites are now providing weather observation, and facilitating the expansion of communication and broadcasting services. Japan has also started developing manned space flight technology and is considering to participate in the international effort to construct a space station that will orbit the earth by the mid 1990's.

The second area is nuclear energy. At present, 29 per cent of the electrical power is generated by 35 commercial nuclear power plants in Japan.

There is high hope for fast breeder reactors since they can be fuelled by plutonium, and increase the efficiency of the uranium resource utilisation. Research is also in progress on nuclear fusion, which will supply much of the energy need in the future, although practical use will not be possible in the near future.

In the field of ocean development, a deep sea exploration vessel, the Shinkai 6000, was completed last year. This vessel

can carry 3 persons to the maximum depth of 6,500 metres under the water and is expected to contribute to the development of marine biological resources, seawater and seabed resources, marine energy and the protection of the marine environment.

Active research is now under way in the field of life sciences, the result of which will be applied in health care, environmental protection, farming fishing and other areas. A wide range of research in the area of genetic engineering is being carried out to discover, for example, the origin of cancer and its prevention. Another area of high technology which Japan is devoting its resources to is magnetically levitated train system. Using linear motors, this super high speed maglev train is lifted above the rails by strong magnetic repulsion and can attain the speed of 500 kms per hour.

The first commercial linear motor car line will start its operation in the spring this year in Osaka and in 1991 in Tokyo, although magnetic forces are only used to propel the car and not to lift it in these pioneer trains.

Research and development projects also include the development of materials with superconductivity at normal temperature, optical fiber communications network, high definition television, robotics and fifth generation computers.

I can cite more projects of high technology, but frankly speaking, I myself cannot cope with the rapid pace of development in technology and cannot quite grasp it. I am sure that you have better understanding and knowledge about these high technologies. But what I wanted to illustrate is that science and technology have contributed and will contribute greatly to the economic and social development as well as the protection of environment of our community.

Another point I wish to stress is that development of technology has not been and will not be possible by the effort of one country. It is the outcome of international cooperation, and its benefit is of global scale, benefit-

ing mankind as a whole. With this aspect in mind, Japan is strengthening its cooperation with other countries in the field of science and technology.

Japan's cooperation with Jordan in this field includes the establishment of the Electronics Service and Training Centre of the Royal Scientific Society, the Electric Training Centre of the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Computer Technology Development and Training Centre of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to stress that Japan is keenly aware that Jordan is facing two-fold challenges at the present time:

One, on the international front, Jordan has been striving in the severe geo-political environment.

Second, in the economic field, Jordan is now facing a challenging moment in its economic and social development.

I am confident, however, that with Jordanian people's sincere efforts and realistic and rational approach to the problems, Jordan will ultimately be successful in overcoming these difficulties. I believe that the reason which Jordan always upholds will prevail and your sincere efforts will win over the challenges Jordan is now facing. I would also like to stress that Jordan's effort is highly appreciated by the international community, and you have strong supports from the various countries of the world, including Japan.

The students assembled here are the hope for the future of Jordan, and the back-bone of Jordan's efforts in meeting international and domestic challenges. I am sure you are all well aware that your studies at the university should not serve only for your personal objectives. Your academic effort at the university has broader and significant bearings on the development and welfare of the Jordanian people and the peace and stability of the Middle East.

With these thoughts in mind, I wish you every success in your present and future endeavours.

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Ext. 223

Algeria seeks to liberalise legislation on joint ventures

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has announced it is trying to liberalise its current joint venture law to attract foreign capital and spur economic recovery.

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche gave details for the first time Sunday night of joint venture provisions of a draft law on money and credit due to be debated this month in the national assembly.

The law is the most important remaining piece of economic reform legislation the government has drawn up to ease the country out of its economic crisis.

The Algerian news agency APS quoted Hamrouche as telling the central committee of the ruling National Liberation Front that state firms, who now must hold at least 51 per cent of any joint venture, would be free to reach joint ventures with foreign partners provided there was no net loss of hard currency.

Bankers said that would clear the way for joint ventures controlled by foreign partners.

Previous attempts to make Algeria's joint venture law more attractive to foreign investors have been defeated by the national assembly as a threat to national sovereignty.

But the government argues foreign capital is necessary in a country chronically short of hard currency.

"We propose to trust our state enterprises... to freely defend their interests with foreign partners under three conditions," Hamrouche said.

"No joint venture can carry out operations which result in the short, medium or long term in a net outflow of hard currency," he added.

He said joint ventures may not monopolise an economic activity or benefit from any exemption from the law and that capital

inflows must be regulated by the Council on Money and Credit and the Banking Control Commission.

Hamrouche said debt service this year would account for \$7 billion of total export earnings of between \$9 and \$10 billion, while imports would total between \$8 and \$9 billion. This would leave a financing gap of around \$6 billion.

Hamrouche reiterated his government's refusal to reschedule the \$24 billion foreign debt, but said new borrowing would be stretched over a longer period to reduce the short-term repayment burden.

"We want to correct the perverse effects of short-term credit," he said. "For this, we must change our foreign trade practices and oblige our firms and banks to reorganise and enter the medium-term market. This should reduce the present cost of borrowing."

Libya doubles estimates of proven oil reserves

NICOSIA (R) — Libya has doubled its estimate of proven recoverable oil reserves after a new study of its reservoirs, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

MEES, a Nicosia-based authoritative newsletter, also said Libya was producing crude oil at a rate of 1.65 million barrels per day (b/d), more than 420,000 b/d above its OPEC quota of 1.233 million, during a test of its output capacity.

MEES said that as a result of its reservoir studies, Libya has raised estimates for recoverable crude reserves to 45 to 50 billion barrels, from 22.8 billion barrels, and gas reserves to 43 trillion cubic feet, from 29.2 trillion previously.

The figures were considerably higher than most previous industry estimates.

"Also under way in Libya is a major oilfield development programme to expand capacity at

three fields — Sarir, Bouni and Mutznk — by a further 550,000 b/d by the mid-1990s," MEES said.

The newsletter said Libya's production test provides evidence that Libya has the capacity to produce 1.65 million b/d without additional investment.

It said this output level was the highest since the fourth quarter of 1982. In the fourth quarter of 1989 Libya's output was around 1.25 million b/d.

But MEES said Libyan Petroleum Minister Fawzi Shakhshouk had made it clear the test would be limited to the first quarter of 1990 and the oil in excess of Libya's OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) quota would be stored.

"With modest additional investment, Libyan officials reckon that sustainable capacity could be increased to 1.85 million b/d, rising to two million b/d," MEES

said. Shakhshouk told MEES that OPEC quotas could be abolished "when OPEC member states actually reach their production capacity — which is not the case now."

"If we want a fair price we have to continue the production quota system," MEES quoted Shakhshouk as saying.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah had called for OPEC quotas to be scrapped, claiming most of the group's 13 members had reached their maximum output levels.

MEES said Libya thinks that OPEC's \$18 a barrel basket price, adopted about three years ago, has now been overtaken by rising inflation in the industrialised countries and the decline in the value of the dollar.

It said Libya wants the minimum reference price to be raised to around \$20 or \$22 a barrel.

Proposed EC trade pact dissatisfies Gulf Arabs

NICOSIA (R) — The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is to tell the European Community (EC), its biggest trading partner, that a proposed free trade pact is still inadequate, a GCC official said Monday.

Foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman met in Riyadh Sunday to agree a common position before their first meeting with their EC counterparts in Oman March 17.

The two sides will discuss how to ease tensions over quota and tariff restrictions imposed by the Community on the Gulf's cheaper petrochemical products.

EC foreign ministers last December agreed a mandate for a free trade pact that includes a lengthy transition period before the scrapping of their protective barriers.

"This mandate does not satisfy the needs of the Gulf council," GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, Abdullah Al Quweiz, told Reuters in Cyprus by telephone.

Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, Youssef ibn Alawi, whose country is current president of the GCC, said after the

meeting the ministers had reached a common position on negotiations with the European side.

Under the proposed free trade agreement, the 12-nation Community would scrap all customs duties on Gulf imports except those on designated sensitive products.

Gulf officials have complained this would effectively maintain the current restrictions on petrochemicals, aluminium and refined products — industries the GCC state are boosting to reduce their heavy reliance on oil exports.

Al Quweiz said the GCC was also unhappy with the 12-year transition period to eliminate tariffs on Gulf products, compared with eight years on EC exports.

"The Europeans recognise the fact that we are developing countries with infant industries but we don't find this consideration in the mandate," he added.

Petrochemical producers in Britain, West Germany and the Netherlands fear a flood of cut-price imports from the Gulf where oil and gas are abundant and cheap.

Suharto lectures big business on need to share the wealth

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto called together many of Indonesia's richest businessmen last weekend and lectured them about the need to spread wealth by selling part of their companies to cooperatives.

Thirty-one owners of business conglomerates, mostly ethnic Chinese, gathered at Suharto's private farm to hear the president reiterate a plan to share corporate wealth among workers, the official Antara News Agency reported Monday.

"The government hopes the selling of shares to cooperatives will proceed smoothly... if the transactions do not run smoothly, the government will take measures to see to it that they do," the news agency quoted Suharto as saying Sunday.

"If this fails to proceed, the existing gap will give rise to social jealousy and upheaval. Then none will be the winner," he said in an off-the-cuff address.

The plan, which Suharto first mentioned when presenting the draft for the next financial year to parliament in January, was widely discounted at the time by economists as little more than a political ploy to still criticism of powerful conglomerates.

"Frankly, everyone believed that this cooperative issue was

essentially politically superficial. But giving it this kind of prominence, well, it's taking on a more serious dimension," an economic consultant said.

The meeting was widely reported in the local press.

Suharto told the clutch of tycoons a state of privatisation on Jakarta's newly revitalised stock exchange had benefited the "haves" rather than the "have nots."

He encouraged companies to lend money to cooperatives to buy shares, saying income from dividends would give the workers' groups the means to repay the loans.

"He's really telling companies 'this is what you will have to sacrifice for the greater good of the nation. You have to give away this much'," the consultant said.

But Suharto did not repeat his budget-speech request that companies sell off a quarter of their equity to cooperatives.

In response, to a suggestion by Indonesia's richest man, Liem Sioe Liong, head of the gigantic Salim Group, that companies start their sales to cooperatives with one per cent of equity, Antara quoted Suharto as saying the percentage should be flexible.

Argentina announces plan to cut state expense, raise income

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Some government workers will be forced to retire and taxes and duties on agricultural exports will be raised in an effort to end hyperinflation, Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez said Sunday night.

Gonzalez, in a 20-minute nationally televised address, warned that Argentina "faces something much worse than hyperinflation," and asked for "support, tolerance and comprehension to prevent bankruptcy from dragging us into anarchy and social chaos."

Gonzalez said the government will cut its expenses by \$2 billion by forcing retirements and eliminating secretariats and sub-secretariats, government departments below the ministerial level.

Effective immediately, he said, all state employees who have reached retirement age but continue to work will be retired and those who are within two years of retirement will be laid off and paid their salaries until they reach retirement age.

Gonzalez did not say how many state employees, now approximately 2.5 million out of a total national workforce of 12.5 million, would be affected by the measure.

Additionally, all 56 secretariats will be eliminated and sub-secretariats will be cut from the current total of 112 to 32, with their duties being taken over by the ministries to which they now are attached, Gonzalez said.

He did not say what would become of the employees of the eliminated secretariats and sub-secretariats, but they presumably will be absorbed by other state entities. The only personnel reductions are those involving retirements.

An additional \$600 million in income will be raised through a 1.5 per cent increase in the tax on capital goods and an average five per cent boost in the tax on agricultural exports, Gonzalez said.

Turks expect further drop in inflation

ANKARA (R) — Inflation, which has eroded support for Turkey's centre-right government, fell for the fourth consecutive month in February and some bankers expect bigger drops later in the year.

The State Statistics Institute reported Sunday that consumer prices rose 59.5 per cent in the 12 months ended February 28. The figure was 60.0 at the end of January and 72.6 per cent at the end of February 1989.

"The current inflation figure will likely show a bigger drop in the second half of this year," Nebil Erulas, assistant general manager of Tourism Investment and Commerce Bank in Istanbul, told Reuters.

Tayfun Beyazit, assistant general manager of private Yapi Kredi Bankasi A.S., said "we expect a considerable fall in inflation this year. Our forecast for annual 1990 inflation is between 50 and 55 per cent."

"The reason the February in-

flation drop has been slight is price rises in public sector goods and services in the first two months of 1990," Beyazit said.

Turkey raised prices in February for state monopoly cigarettes and drinks, tea products, domestic air and train fares, electricity and medicines.

The increases were a bid to cut the budget deficit, which is forecast at 10.5 trillion lira (\$4.3 billion) in 1990. Large deficits have been blamed for the inflation of recent years.

The ruling Motherland Party's popular support has been below 20 per cent for the last year, mainly because of a failure to stem inflation. The party holds 282 of parliament's 450 seats.

Banking sources say the World Bank has given Turkey a letter saying the release of a \$200 million financial sector adjustment loan may be further delayed if Turkey fails to curb inflation significantly by April.

Bulgaria applies to join IMF

WASHINGTON (R) — Joining a growing number of Eastern European countries, Bulgaria has applied for membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, the two lending agencies. The move comes as Bulgaria's reformist leaders have given private farmers more freedom and are considering selling shops and some restaurants to private owners in hopes of revitalising the stagnant economy. The new Communist leaders have been grappling with some \$10 billion in foreign debt and widespread food shortages.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 6, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An unusually good day for thinking out, mulling over and arriving at a very definite decision about what you most want to do in order to have fundamental security. Rest this evening.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to keep your social activities today with very talented friends. Now, at last, you can do those things with your attachment which have been long delayed.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Accept an influential man now into your circle of good friends. Invite persons into your home whom you have known for a considerable period of time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Invite persons into your home who value and appreciate your good taste. Go with your attachment to attractive places of recreation and entertainment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Conversations with outside experts will aid you in finances and businesses. Invite family and friends from nearby into your home at this time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Include more practical minded and prosperous friends in your social circle. Avoid making any critical comments to those beneath your own roof.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A prosperous associate will

show you how to increase your income. Go along agreeably with all that activity taking place in your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You will have lots of good ideas now, but you need to be more practical about them. Help your attachment to straighten out financial matters.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Follow advice of a bigwig regarding recreations in which you now engage. Avoid any hasty or impulsive negative acts or words set your home.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An aura of special happiness can exist between you and your friends now. More art, colour or music is now a must in your home for comfort.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Be alert to some new ventures of a business or financial nature. Arrangements with your own attachment will be usually productive of good results.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) Now is the time to join in some amusement with all kinds of varied personalities. Have a more definite understanding between you and your attachment.

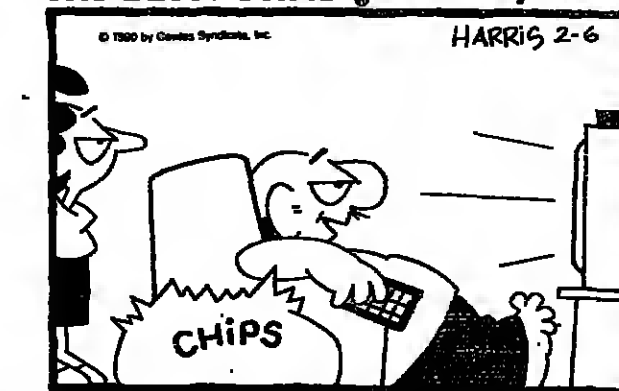
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Accept the aid of anyone interested who will help you with your duties. Now is the time to travel wherever possible with your attachment.

THE Daily Crossword by Jeanne Wilson

ACROSS

1. Rant wrap
5. Dismal
9. "..." were the days...
14. Author Uris
15. Part
16. "..." cockhorse
17. Bedouin
18. Eastern jar
19. Heroes
20. INFLATION CONTROL
22. Singing brothers
23. Hoarfrost
24. "..." (bar drink)
25. Producer Carlo
27. Waterfall
32. Tennis stroke
33. Dvorak
35. Woodwork machine
36. "..." (out makes)
38. Puzzle theme
40. Bearing
41. Moral man
43. "..." pray
45. WWII ship
46. Suppose
48. This
50. Rental abbr.
51. Frank
52. "My kingdom for..."
56. NIXON'S DOG
60. "It had to..."
61. Tac Charlie
62. Russ. sea
63. Short: prel.
64. Diana of Eng. films
66. Split
68. Possession
69. Ger. count
69. Over again
70. Down
1. In hard
2. Before
3. Dynamics
3. Chestnut
4. Hereditary
5. Preening
6. Esther of TV
7. Friend in need
8. Voice vote
9. UNIMPO-
10. TANT
11. Fragrance
12. Betray
13. Kind of chair
14. Kind of bread
22. Ingest
24. Fr. painter
25. FIREPLACE
26. Fat
27. Reaches
28. Butter?
29. Skewed
30. PONTON
31. BOARD
32. Ger. count
33. Corp unit
34. Yacht
35. Legends
37. Help!
39. Mystery air
42. CHASE (see 30)
44. Unusual abbr.
47. Fr. title
49. Turk. city
51. Chl. airport
52. Eban of Isr.
53. Towel word
54. Court call
55. Wander
56. Hew
57. Gro or Morn
58. Great review
59. Killed
61. Bank cert.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I know TV wrestling is fake. But it's okay because I'm just faking enjoyment."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAWGO

IMODI

DELUVA

SNAMEA

ANSWER: TO

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEGUN POACH CAJOLE SOIRE

Answer: What a fock in the road might have resulted in way back in those days—A "BOON" IN THE CAR

ANMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, March 5, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	116.0	116.7
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	446.9	449.6
Pound Sterling	1104.2	1110.8	Dutch guilder	348.0	350.1
Deutschmark	391.9	394.3	Swedish crown	108.8	109.5
Swiss franc	445.7	448.4	Italian lira (for 100)	53.2	53.5
			Belgian franc (for 100)	187.8	188.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	U.S. dollars
	1.6430/40	1.1915/25	Canadian dollar
	1.7033/40	1.9185/95	Deutschmarks
	1.5018/28	35.36/41	Dutch guilders
	5.7530/80	1256/1257	Swiss francs
	149.23/33	149.23/33	Belgian francs
	6.1420/70	6.1420/70	French francs
	6.5630/80	6.5630/80	Italian lire
	6.5340/90	6.5340/90	Japanese yen
One ounce of gold	403.00/403.50		Swedish crowns
			Norwegian crowns
			Danish crowns
			U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Friday's strong performance on Wall Street and bargain-hunting in leading stocks pushed the market to a firmer close. The All Ordinaries Index rose 13.1 to 1,581.3.

TOKYO — Shares closed down but well off their lows in listless trading. Futures-related selling predominated over general buying encouraged by a mild rebound by the yen in the afternoon. The Nikkei Index fell 212.36 to 33,845.20.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended little changed after a day of sluggish trading. The Hang Seng Index rose 0.75 of a point to 2,938.68 after see-sawing within a narrow range.

ZURICH — Shares ended slightly firmer but below day's highs. Overall volume was light with some activity in selected industrial shares. The SPI Index rose 1.9 points to 1,098.06.

PARIS — Share prices closed near the highs set at the opening in light trade, with most blue chips showing strong gains. The CAC-40 index ended 13.95 up at 1874.43.

LONDON — Shares edged towards the bottom of the day's sharply lower trading range in the late afternoon after Wall Street gave up early gains. By 1633 GMT the FTSE index was 22.6 down at 2,233.2.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks had stalled at slightly higher levels in late morning. The Dow was ahead four at 2665 and a few more issues showed gains than losses. Trading was slow.

Banks in UAE expect upturn

DUBAI (R) — Foreign bankers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the most open country in the Gulf for onshore foreign banking, are optimistic that business is picking up but some are careful not to become over-extended again.

The foreign banking community in the UAE suffered along with the Arab banks during the severe recession of the mid-1980s when the oil price collapse and the Iran-Iraq war cast a cloud over the economic future of the region.

The contended peace, 18 months after the end of the war, and a widely predicted rise in oil prices during the first half of the 1990s has brought some sunshine into bank offices.

"It's not a boom, but it's certainly an upturn," said one senior manager at an established regional foreign bank.

The UAE has the most liberal onshore banking regime for foreign banks in the Gulf, the bankers say. Trading in the UAE dirham is completely open, corporate customers do not pay tax, and the government generally encourages the industry.

Bahrain, with its offshore bank facility, is host to the other large concentration of foreign banks in the Gulf and the UAE has often been compared as a competitor.

But bankers see the markets as distinct. "Bahrain is an offshore market to service the region where foreign banks cannot be. The UAE market is a domestic market with a lot of depth, which is what banks come here for," said a British banker.

Attention is focused on the two biggest emirates of the seven in the UAE federation.

Abu Dhabi's vast oil wealth, with the promise of higher oil prices, has triggered a mini-construction boom. There are hopes of financing supplies for the government's planned large-scale projects to boost oil capacity.

Dubai, which also has oil wealth, has also become more attractive but for a different reason.

In the whole of the Gulf, it is the one city where economic

trends are not almost completely linked to the oil-price cycle.

The free-market policies of the ruling Maktoum family have encouraged broad trading links with areas outside the Gulf, including India, Pakistan, and a growing airborne entrepot trade in consumer goods between the Far East and European markets.

Dubai has traditional trading links with Iran just across the Gulf. One of Britain's big four clearing banks, Lloyds Bank, is a leading player in high-margin financing of Iranian trade.

Other foreign banks would like to join in but Lloyds has had a representative office in Tehran since 1975 and without a similar operation Iran deals can be risky, other bankers said.

Financing of other trade in Dubai has been a mainstay for most of the 28 foreign banks in the UAE and, with trade volumes rising, looks set to get better. "Dubai is really where most people want to be," said another foreign bank manager.

Available statistics show returns on assets as generally good, with the biggest foreign banks in the UAE showing returns of two to 2.5 per cent in 1988.

Citicorp's Citibank, the only U.S. bank to survive in the UAE after the downturn of the 1980s, came back into profit on this measure in 1988, the figures compiled by banks show.

Retail banking is also a growth area. The British Bank of the Middle East has a firm hold on the sector but other banks, such as British clearing bank Barclays, are developing their retail side.

Aggressive development of the retail sector could easily backfire at the sign of any downturn, and much of the construction boom is still related to forecasts of better times to come rather than any thing concrete, he said.

Some banks have already suffered by being too eager to lend. Banker estimate that up to 120 million dirhams (\$32 million) was lost in Abu Dhabi recently, where banks financed the purchase of new vehicles and had their name displayed on the logbook.

EUROPEAN SOCCER:

Milan dice with team changes in race for treble

Reuter

AC Milan's gamble of resting first-choice players before resuming their defence of the European Cup in midweek nearly cost them dearly in the league last weekend.

But the World Club champions, who are also in the Italian Cup final, bounced back from a goal down to beat bottom club Ascoli 2-1 at home Sunday and stay two points clear of Diego Maradona's Napoli.

"We were able to rest some players and still win. Frank Rijkaard played in the second half despite a sore throat and Marco van Basten played despite a tendon (problem)," AC Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi said.

He would have regretted the decision but for second-half goals by Giovanni Stroppa and Mauro Tassotti after Yugoslav Borislav Cveticovic had put Ascoli in front.

Internazionale's 2-1 defeat at Lazio virtually left the title race in the remaining seven fixtures to AC Milan and Napoli, who struggled to overcome Genoa 2-1 at home without the injured Mar-

dona.

Milan, who face Belgian champions Mechelen in the first leg of the European Cup quarterfinals away Wednesday, have 42 points.

Napoli, no longer committed in Europe after failing in the second round of their UEFA Cup defence, have 40. Sampdoria are third, five points further back, ahead of defending champions Inter and Juventus on goal difference.

Napoli coach Alberto Bigon decided for the second Sunday running against risking Maradona, who has back pains, and his side only just won with a last-minute goal from Gianfranco Zola, Maradona's stand-in.

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven lost prolific Brazilian striker Romario ahead of their European Cup clash at Bayern Munich.

Romario broke his leg after scoring twice in Sunday's 9-2 league destruction of Den Haag and will be out for about three months.

PSV, seeking their fifth straight league title, are just one point ahead of Ajax, who won 3-0 at

RKC Waalwijk and have a game in hand.

West German leaders Bayern face PSV after a 2-0 home win over Waldhof Mannheim left them a point clear of Eintracht Frankfurt. But coach Jupp Heynckes said: "The team have not made so much progress that I can say we will win the European Cup."

In France, Bordeaux's Belgian trainer Raymond Goethals refused to let the league leaders' 3-0 defeat in Cannes, their heaviest of the season, rattle him.

The club retains a four-point lead over Marseille, who did not play as they prepared to face Celta Sofia away in the European Cup. But Marseille have two games in hand.

"Why worry?" Goethals said. "We're already surprised to be so well placed anyway. We've got 41 points and we just need seven or eight more to make sure of a European place. That was our aim for the season, nothing more."

Despite his brave words, Bordeaux have to be concerned by their shaky form since the mid-

winter break. They have dropped five points in five games.

In Spain, new Atletico Madrid coach Joaquin Peiro was scathing after a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Real Oviedo left them nine points behind leaders Real Madrid.

"The players were a bit apathetic and I'll have to talk to them this week," Peiro said. He would not say if he plans changes in the team which could easily have lost Sunday's game.

Portugal's Benfica, at home to Soviet side Dnepropetrovsk in the European Cup Wednesday, should be in good heart after a 4-0 win at Penafiel on Sunday.

The victory kept them three points behind leaders Porto, who beat Sporting 3-2 at home.

In the English League, Aston Villa's 2-0 defeat at Coventry Sunday, their second in a row, allowed Liverpool, who beat Millwall 1-0 Saturday, to end the weekend one point ahead.

Villa had the chance a week earlier of going five points clear of Liverpool but missed it with a shock 3-0 defeat at home to Wimbledon.

Navratilova wins tournament

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Martina Navratilova lost her first set of the year but still beat Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 Sunday to win the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Indian Wells tennis tournament.

The top-seeded Navratilova overpowered the third-seeded Sukova in the third set, losing just the fifth game when she had her service broken. Navratilova, 33, then broke back and held her serve to win the one hour, 37-minute match.

Navratilova, who earlier this year won the Virginia Slims tournaments at Chicago and Washington, earned \$70,000 for her latest victory, the 149th singles title of her career. Sukova, 25, earned \$28,000.

The championship match was played under very windy conditions.

"I've played under a lot of conditions before, but never in a sandstorm," Navratilova said after receiving her winner's check. "It was tough. The wind was gusty and unpredictable."

Navratilova was ahead 5-2 in the second set, but Sukova then won five straight games, breaking Navratilova's service twice and holding service three times, to force the third set, which Navratilova dominated.

"At 6-5 (in the second set), she hit an ace, my feet just stopped moving," Navratilova said. "Then they started moving again."

Navratilova all but ended Sukova's hopes by taking a 4-0 lead in the third set. Sukova had two double-break points in the first game of the final set, but couldn't convert either one.

"I had my chances in the first game" of the final set, Sukova said. "Then, when I was serving, I was slowly losing it. She was much tougher in that third set."

Thousands welcome Iraqi team after quitting Gulf tournament

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's national football team received a hero's welcome on their return Monday after withdrawing from the 10th Gulf Cup soccer tournament in Kuwait.

Thousands of Iraqis danced and sang at the airport VIP lounge to welcome the team, flanked by a band and a plane after rejecting attempts to have it stay in the games.

Oudai Hussein, president of the Iraqi Football Federation and son of President Saddam Hussein, ordered the team back after national team captain and back Adnan Darjil was expelled during a tough match Saturday against the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE, one of the World Cup finalists, scored on the subsequent penalty kick and the game ended with a 2-2 draw.

The Iraqis, current champions and favourites with Kuwait to win the games, accused the referee of bias and said he was bribed to favour the UAE team.

The government-run media

attacked what it described as the mismanagement of the tournament and called for a new championship to replace the Gulf Cup, played every two years since 1970.

Baghdad newspapers quoted an unidentified soccer federation spokesman Sunday as saying Oudai agreed with the son of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who runs the kingdom's soccer federation, on the need for a new tournament.

Saudi Arabia withdrew its team before the games started Feb. 20, calling the emblem insulting because it featured two horses that played a key role in repulsing a Saudi invasion of Kuwait in the 1920s.

In Kuwait, the Iraqi team was seen off by Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the country's top sports official and president of the organising committee for the tournament.

"No matter what happened at the tournament, Iraq will remain respected by our people, lead-

ership and government," he told the departing Iraqis. "Differences can occur among brothers, but this must not affect the love that binds our two nations."

The head of the Iraqi delegation, Hesham Ajaj told the Kuwaiti official that his country's protest was basically directed against the umpiring.

Members of the Kuwait organising committee, who spoke on condition of anonymity, reported that the Iraqis said they would reconsider pulling out if the captain's expulsion was revoked.

Sports officials, however, said it was all but impossible for the technical committee in reverse the ruling as it would entail the referee admitting that he was wrong, ending his career. All referees in the competition are sanctioned by the International Football Association (FIFA).

Iraq, UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and hosts Kuwait were taking part in exhibition contest.

The tournament's technical committee met Monday to review team standings without Iraq.

Karpov aiming for revenge match with world champion Kasparov

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union says he is confident of beating Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the month-long World Candidates' final that begins here Thursday.

The winner in the Malaysian capital will challenge current champion Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union for the world title.

"I believe I am the only player who can take on Kasparov. Timman has no chance," said Karpov, world champion from 1975 to 1985 and now ranked second.

"Timman is very experienced but his problem for many years is

that he becomes nervous at the crucial stages," he said.

Kasparov took the title from Karpov in 1985. They fought to a 12-12 draw in a re-match in Spain in 1987 and the defending champion retained the title.

Karpov and Timman, world number three, have met 50 times in the past 22 years. Karpov has won 16 times, Timman has taken three and the rest were drawn. Timman has refused to be drawn into any pre-match show of confidence but told reporters he had learned from his previous defeats to Karpov.

"The match should be interesting and I am playing better than

before," he said.

An official of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) said that as both players knew each other well there would be no need for an appeals committee, a rare move for such matches.

"I expect the match to be friendly. We are good friends," Karpov said of Timman.

"We are on good terms. To say we are friends would be an exaggeration but I don't expect any conflicts," Timman told reporters.

Helping Timman prepare for the match are grandmaster Ulf Andersson of Sweden, Gyula Sax of Hungary and Vlastimil Hort of the Soviet Union.

On Karpov's side will be Soviet grandmasters Igor Zaitsev and Oleg Romanishin and international master Mikhail Podgats as well as American grandmaster Ron Henley.

Gudmundur Arnarsson of Iceland is the chief arbiter for the match, which will be over 12 games.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Muster wins Egypt's championship

CAIRO (R) — Austrian Thomas Muster sailed to an easy victory over Spaniard Jose Francisco Altur Sunday to win one of the world's oldest tournament — Egypt's international tennis championship.

Krickstein wins Scottsdale classic

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (R) — Aarow Krickstein beat fellow-American Tim Mayotte 6-3, 6-4 Sunday to take the \$100,000 first prize in the Scottsdale Classic men's round-robin exhibition.

Runner in Los Angeles marathon dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A runner in the Los Angeles marathon died after he suffered a heart attack near the end of the course, officials said. William McKinney, 59, of the Los Angeles suburb Altadena collapsed near the 21-mile mark of the 26.2-mile course and died an hour later at Midway hospital, said race spokesman Bruce Dworshak.

Union calls Italy's WC sites a bloodbath

ROME (R) — Building sites for this summer's World Cup soccer finals in Italy are becoming a bloodbath, with 16 fatal construction accidents, and require urgent government action, Italy's largest trade union said Sunday. "The World Cup construction sites are turning into a bloodbath," Antonio Pizzinato, leader of Italy's Cgil Trade-Union Confederation, told reporters.

Is gymnast Brandy over the hill at 16?

By David Ginsburg
The Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Virginia — In an era when many sports stars are playing well into their 40s, gymnast Brandy Johnson is finding out questions about her advancing years at the ripe old age of 16.

The life span of a female gymnast seems longer only than that of a butterfly. Although Johnson still wears a ponytail and hasn't gotten out of high school, the 1988 Olympian is nevertheless perceived by many as an old lady.

"Everybody is questioning me about the young people coming up," she said. "There's always going to be up-and-comers, but I'll be 19 in 1992. That's hardly too old to win a medal."

"You don't put an age limit on your game," she said. "When you feel the time is right to retire, you will. Right now I don't feel that way."

Johnson will be tested by a host of American and international foes this weekend when she attempts to defend her McDonald's American Cup title. Male and female athletes from more than 15 countries will compete in the two-day competition that has hosted such stars as Nadia Comaneci, Bart Conner, Mary Lou Retton and Kurt Thomas.

Johnson became this country's darling during the 1988 Olympics when she placed 10th as the highest all-around finisher among all American gymnasts. As she gears up for the 1992 games, the 99-pounder (42-kilo) insists that although she is getting older, she's getting better.

"I plan to compete as long as I can without putting an age limit on myself," she said. "As long as I'm progressing — and I think I am — then I'm going to stick with it."

Ironically, only two years ago she was considered too young to

make it to the Olympics. In 1988, she became the top junior in the country, but many of the so-called experts told her she didn't have the experience to make the Olympic team.

"People were saying, 'she's too young for '88.' Now they're saying, 'she's too old for '92.' I guess I'm going to have to prove myself again," Johnson said. "As long as I'm progressing and I'm happy with what I'm doing, I'm not going to put a limit on myself."

The Olympic experience and the fame she gained from it has matured Johnson quickly.

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POSITION VACANCY

Aid Project Management Specialist
Family Health Services

The U.S. Agency for International Development has a vacancy for an AID Project Management Specialist (Family Health Services). The applicant should have a Bachelor's degree in a health or allied health field with four to six years of progressively responsible, professional level experience in health or allied health field. At least three years of this experience should have been in responsible development assistance or related work for other donor organizations, host-government organization or private sector institutions. Graduate degrees such as M.A., M.S., PhD, M.D. may be substituted for an equivalent portion of the work experience.

Interested candidates who believe they have the required qualifications to fill this position may apply in writing by submitting a recent biographical data and salary history in English to the following address:

Personnel Office
U.S. Agency for International Development
P.O. Box 354
Amman, Jordan

Deadline for accepting applications is March 14, 1990.

POSITION VACANCY
Aid Project Management Specialist
Public Health/Child Survival Services

The U.S. Agency for International Development has a vacancy for an AID Project Management Specialist (Public Health/Child Survival Services). The applicant should have a Bachelor's degree in a health or allied health field with five to seven years of progressively responsible, professional level experience in health or allied health field. At least four years of this experience should have been in responsible development assistance or related work for other donor organizations, host-government organization or private sector institutions. Graduate degrees such as M.A., M.S., PhD, M.D. may be substituted for an equivalent portion of the work experience. However, some work experience will normally be required for this position.

Interested candidates who believe they have the required qualifications to fill this position may apply in writing by submitting a recent biographical data and salary history in English to the following address:

Personnel Office
U.S. Agency for International Development
P. O. Box 354
Amman, Jordan

Deadline for accepting applications is March 14, 1990.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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THE KING IS DEAD

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 2
♥ Q J 8 2
♦ K 7 3
♣ K J 10 5

WEST EAST
♠ Q 10 8 5 3 ♠ A J 9 4
♥ K ♥ 6 5 3
♦ J 10 9 2 ♦ A Q 8 5
♣ 6 4 3 ♣ 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K 4
♥ A 10 9 7 4
♦ 6 4
♣ A Q 9 8

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 3 ♥
Pass 4 ♥ Pass 3 ♥
Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Two of the prime considerations in the play of a hand are assumptions and deduction. And, in the words of a popular song, "you can't have one without the other." This hand from a rubber bridge game was reported in the *Midmonth Bridge Forum* by Joe Scott of Rogers, Ariz.

Conventionally, North's jump to three hearts was invitational. South's raise to game was routine, since his 13 HCP were well bolstered by intermediates and distributional values.

West led the jack of diamonds, and declarer rose with dummy's king. East took his ace, then continued with with queen of diamonds and another, ruffed by declarer. How would you play the hand?

At first sight, it might seem declarer should simply play the percentage and take the heart finesse. But appearances are often deceptive (especially for a candidate for a bridge column, which would hardly have seen the light of day had the contract depended on a mere finesse). First, consider what you need to make game.

You have already lost two tricks, so you can afford to lose only one more. Unless East has the ace of spades, you are destined to lose two tricks in that suit, so you must assume that East has that ace. That enables you to deduce that West has the king of hearts. Why?

East, who passed in first seat, has already shown up with the ace-queen of diamonds (6 points) and, you assume, the ace of spades (4 points). If he had the king of hearts as well, he had a sound opening bid. Therefore, you have deduced that West has the king of trumps, so your only chance is to find it singleton. So plunk down the ace of hearts, watch the monarch fall and claim your contract.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

Omar Al Sharif and
Murvat Amin
in
AL ARAGOUZ
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:15, 6:45, 8:15, 10:15

NIJOM

Tel: 675571

NIGHT
&
TRAITORS
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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REVENGE OF
THE NERDS

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UNO and Sandinistas appear to edge closer to military issue

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's opposing political parties appear to be edging closer to consensus on the future of U.S.-backed contra rebels and the Sandinista army.

What to do with the two armies is the thorniest problem facing Nicaragua as the Sandinista National Liberation Front, surprisingly defeated in last week's elections, prepare to hand over power to a victorious 14-party alliance led by opposition newspaper publisher Violeta Chamorro.

A commentary in Chamorro's La Prensa newspaper Sunday took an extraordinarily conciliatory line toward the Sandinistas, who have demanded that the Sandinista army remain intact and that the Honduras-based contras be disbanded.

"Uno (the National Opposition Union) must recognise that the Sandinista people's army will keep its name by constitutional mandate and that the reduction and reorganisation of the army must not mean its institutional

dismantling," the unsigned article said.

It also said that contra rebels, who have fought an eight-year war against Sandinista rule, must be disbanded and their camps in neighbouring Honduras disbanded.

"Their entry into the country organised and armed, or their continued presence in Honduras, would be a grave threat to peace (and) an open door to revenge," it said.

Sandinistas fear they will be defenceless against revenge attacks by the contras if the Sandinista army is dissolved.

Final results of the elections, published Sunday, showed UNO fell four seats short of achieving a big enough parliamentary majority to change the constitution, which enshrines many Sandinista

principles. UNO spokesman Luis Sanchez said the UNO would seek a review because many votes had been annulled, leaving the alliance two or three seats short of the expected total.

UNO will have 51 seats in the new National Assembly to the Sandinista front's 39. A centrist and a far-left party each have one seat.

President Daniel Ortega has said contra disarmament is a condition for a peaceful transfer of power on April 25.

For the first time, Ortega's opponents at home and in the United States appear to share his impatience. U.S. President George Bush has sent an envoy, Harry Shlandeman, to meet the contras and UNO is pushing for the rebels to rapidly disband.

Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, often a fierce critic of the Sandinistas, said Sunday he would send two representatives to Honduras this week to discuss disbanding the guerrillas.

Ortega said at a Managua church Sunday that Nicaraguans faced their greatest test to achieve peace and to eradicate hatred and vengeance.

Meanwhile heavily-armed contra rebels roaming inside Nicaraguan territory say they will not lay down their weapons until the Sandinistas have left power and the leftists' army has been dissolved.

"I couldn't say the war has ended," said Contra patrol leader "freddy" in a village located in a valley in this northern province bordering Honduras.

"We still haven't been assured that the Sandinistas are going to abandon their arms. And while the Sandinistas are in Nicaragua there will be no democracy or liberty for the Nicaraguan people."

Reporters found a small contra patrol Sunday as it held a meeting with villagers, apparently taking advantage of a unilateral ceasefire announced by Ortega last week.

Mandela visits Zimbabwe's war memorial

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Nelson Mandela laid a wreath Monday at a memorial to those who died fighting for the independence that transformed white-ruled Rhodesia into black-governed Zimbabwe.

Mandela, 71, vice-president of the African National Congress (ANC), began his fourth week of freedom from South African prisons at the North Korean-built shrine — a monument to the blacks' wartime victory.

The veteran black nationalist, a symbol of the fight against Pretoria's racial policy of apartheid, said Zimbabwe's victory was an inspiration to the people of his own country where some 5 million whites wield political and economic power over 28 million others.

President Robert Mugabe, who led the Zimbabwean guerrillas in the seven-year conflict, the previous day declared Monday Mandela Day, a public holiday in honour of his guest. But many Zimbabweans flocked to work, anyway, unaware they'd been given a day off.

At a state banquet Sunday night, Mugabe urged "all liberation forces in South Africa to harness their energies so as to hasten the end of the evil system of apartheid and the creation of a democratic and non-racial South Africa."

The ANC, its rivals the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) and the South African Communist Party were all legitimised by President F.W. de Klerk last month as a prelude to Mandela's release from 27 years' imprisonment on Feb. 11.

The ANC, which embraces the Communist Party, has agreed to talks expected to begin in Cape Town in mid-March. But the PAC, which Mugabe once favoured over the ANC, refuses to engage in any discussions.

Mugabe noted that his own country's independence came as a result of direct talks between guerrilla leaders and the government under British chairmanship in 1979. This was after Mugabe himself was detained by Ian Smith's Rhodesian regime for 10 years.

Mandela has repeatedly vowed that whites would have nothing to fear in a black-ruled South Africa, a promise he repeated on his three-day visit to Zimbabwe.

The ANC leader arrived in Harare from Lusaka, the capital of neighbouring Zambia where his movement has been headquartered. It was formed in 1912 and outlawed 30 years ago.

PAC denounces Mandela's call for peace with whites

HARARE (R) — The leader of the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) denounced Nelson Mandela's call for reconciliation with whites in South Africa and said his appeal for unity among black groups was a waste of time.

Zeph Mothopeng, the 76-year-old PAC president, asked at a news conference Monday about Mandela's efforts to ally the fears of whites in South Africa, said: "Making allowances for the whites — that is compromise, appeasement."

Mandela, deputy president of the rival African National Congress (ANC), appealed for black unity and promised reconciliation to South Africa's five million whites on the first day of his visit to Zimbabwe Sunday.

"We do not believe in appeasement," Mothopeng said. "We are going to recapture, to win and attain our freedom." He scorned Mandela's famous speech from the dock at his 1964 trial, when he spoke of his dual fight against both white and black domination.

"That statement is false. Black people have never dominated any whites. We have never had that opportunity. That is projecting the sins of the white people to the black people," Mothopeng declared.

He said Mandela's remarks, repeated in his first speech after release from prison on Feb. 11, were "nice pleasing words" to white ears.

Asked about Mandela's call for unity of all anti-apartheid forces, Mothopeng said: "I don't understand what he means by that ... parties have their own policies. You will be wasting your time because they will never come together."

He said the whites could not expect anything as whites, only as "azanians", the PAC term for South Africans. "They will always be drowned by the black majority, they must accept that. It is senseless to think that we are going to consider the whites."

Mothopeng confirmed that he had turned down an invitation from President Robert Mugabe to a state dinner in honour of Mandela Sunday night.

He said the PAC leadership was busy meeting with its sister Pan Africanist Movement (PAM) and that while the leadership first agreed he should go, it was later decided that security at the dinner was inadequate.

The PAC and PAM reaffirmed their opposition to negotiations with the South African government.

Aquino troops mop up northern town rebels

MANILA (AP) — Gunfire crackled through the streets of a northern provincial capital Monday as troops searched for a suspected governor accused in December's attempt to topple President Corason Aquino.

Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo fled Sunday during fighting with government soldiers in Tuguegarao, 400 kilometres north of Manila, after he refused to surrender on a charge of "rebellion with murder."

On Monday, officials ordered the arrest of three mayors, one village chief and a lawyer for supporting Aguinaldo.

At least 14 people were killed in Sunday's fighting, including Brig.-Gen. Oscar Florendo, who was sent on Feb. 28 to Tuguegarao with other officials to negotiate with Aguinaldo for his surrender.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters Monday she ordered the armed forces to arrest Aguinaldo "using such force as is necessary but taking all feasible measures for the safety of civilians."

Florendo was killed at the six-storey Delfino Hotel which was seized at 4 a.m. Sunday by armed Aguinaldo supporters. Government forces counterattacked at 3 p.m. trying to rescue other officials who had barricaded themselves in on the second floor.

Local Government Secretary

Luis Santos, two mayors, two colonels and a navy commodore were rescued unharmed, officials said.

Mrs. Aquino said Aguinaldo's forces killed Florendo before fleeing.

Aguinaldo was suspended in January as governor of Cagayan province for allegedly supporting the military rebellion. He told a Manila radio station on Dec. 1 that he was sending tanks and artillery to the city to support minereers trying to oust Mrs. Aquino.

Cagayan province is also the birthplace and political stronghold of opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

The confrontation was felt Monday on the Manila Stock Exchange where share prices closed 1.38 per cent lower. Traders said investors feared a new wave of political unrest in the wake of the Tuguegarao bloodshed.

In a statement to news organisations, mutinous soldiers responsible for the December coup attempt deplored Florendo's death but declared support for Aguinaldo.

"We call upon the Filipino people to express their indignation and rejection of the illegitimate (Aquino) regime before our beloved nation is torn apart," the statement said.

Kaifu under pressure after summit with Bush

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, back from a weekend U.S.-Japan summit, faces renewed political pressure on the home front that could undermine promises he made to President George Bush to tackle bilateral trade problems.

Kaifu, in talks with senior members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Monday, reaffirmed his U.S. pledge to change the structure of Japan's economy to reduce the country's annual \$50 billion trade surplus with the United States.

But criticism is mounting here that the promise Kaifu made to Bush in California could fall by the wayside as the prime minister struggles to control a weakening political situation at home.

While the ruling party won a majority in the Lower House in recent polls, it still faces confrontation in the opposition-controlled Upper House, which can block passage of all key legislation with the exception of the budget.

Takako Doi, who heads the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), the largest opposition group, launched an attack on Kaifu in parliament Monday, saying he went ill-prepared to the hastily arranged meeting with Bush.

"Prime Minister Kaifu, what in fact did you promise the president?" she yelled in the Lower House. "You made promises that

the Japanese people have yet to hear about."

Kaifu told LDP officials earlier Monday that "the most urgent task (for Japan) was to cooperate seriously" in solving bilateral trade problems under discussion in so-called Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks, first launched last September.

The United States is pressing Japan to help slash its U.S. trade surplus by introducing structural changes that would streamline the country's complex distribution system, reduce housing costs and bring down high prices for consumer goods.

Masaya Ito, a well-known political commentator, said while the government may be able to draw up a general plan to introduce structural reforms, "there is no likelihood it will pass into law with an Upper House controlled by the opposition."

Ito, a former secretary to the late Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, said: "Kaifu is in a difficult position after his meeting with Bush. There's no way he can keep the promises he made."

Some political observers say that the occasion for real dialogue will come when Noboru Takeshita, the former premier and most influential LDP power broker, visits Washington next week.

"He may be powerful but he doesn't control the opposition," Ito remarked.

Does Gorbachev live at 10 Kosygin Street?

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev may have dropped a clue about one of his mysteries: Where he lives.

After voting in local elections Sunday, Gorbachev led a crowd of journalists and passersby to No. 10 Kosygin Street, a pale yellow building perched on the highest bank of the Moscow River, with a magnificent view of the city and the Kremlin.

There, guard turned back the journalists, the rest of the crowd blocked the view of Gorbachev and a motorcade of three Zil Limousines may or may not have taken Gorbachev away.

From the street, the yellow edifice appears to be just an unusually fine apartment building. Next door is the dull grey building that was the home of the late Alexei Kosygin when he was Soviet premier in the 1960s and 1970s, and for whom the street is named.

But from the river below, bay windows and balconies bespeak a rich residence designed to take private advantage of a stupendous site.

Neighbours who watched it being built several years ago say the five-floor building extends another five stories into the bedrock of the Lenin Hills. A few hundred metres away, a metro line zips straight to the Kremlin Wall.

The U.S. Defence Department claims the Lenin Hills are laced with civil defence tunnels, and rumours have long circulated in Moscow that Soviet leaders have a private underground train line from the Kremlin to bunkers in this virtual cliff overlooking the capital.

Indeed, the unmistakable Zil limousines used by just a handful of top Soviet leaders only occasionally appear at the blockhouse guarding No. 10 Kosygin St.

"If Gorbachev lives here, he comes and goes underground," said a Westerner who resides in the neighbourhood.

Gorbachev's true home has always been a source of specula-

tion. The four-Zil convoy widely assumed to carry the Soviet leader routinely races down Kutuzovskiy prospect and Rublyovskoye Shosse, far and away the best-maintained roads in the capital.

Police clear traffic from the middle, so-called "Zil Lane" every morning and evening to let the limousines sail by.

Locals say that just past Moscow's outer ring road, they turn right down an unmarked road visibly guarded by a lone policeman. At night, the route is brightly lit, standing out in a city short of street lights and generally shrouded in gloom.

Gorbachev is widely believed to spend most evenings at a dacha, or country home, in a well-guarded compound down that road. Like many areas on the outskirts of Moscow, foreigners are barred from setting foot in it.

During their 1988 summit, then-President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy dined at Gorbachev's dacha, described then as "a sprawling walled compound."

But on Sunday, after voting at the Institute of Chemical Physics, at No. 4 Kosygin St., Gorbachev stopped to speak with reporters and passersby, both inside and outside the gates of the heavily wooded grounds of the institute. Then he walked briskly several hundred metres down the boulevard.

Hefty security men roughly halted correspondents far from the security gates, where the small crowd surrounding the leader shuffled positions and split up, obscuring the whereabouts of Gorbachev, his wife Raisa, daughter Irina, her husband Igor and their two children.

Several people then drove away in two limousines parked outside, and moments later a third Zil departed from inside the compound.

If Gorbachev had just left his city residence, no one could be sure which long, black vehicle carried him.

E. German papers attack Kohl over Polish border

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German newspaper attacked West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conditions for recognising Poland's borders Monday, with a Communist paper accusing him of "German megalomania."

They criticised Kohl's linkage of the border issue to a Polish renunciation of war reparations claims against Germany and a treaty guaranteeing the rights of ethnic Germans in Poland.

"This expresses once again that German megalomania with which Europe has had more than enough unpleasant experience," the Communist Party newspaper Neues Deutsch said.

"Those who question the border on the Oder and Neisse Rivers, drawn in blood, or want to make it subject to negotiation, lock the door to German unity," the paper said.

The non-party Berliner Zeitung said Kohl had become unbearable, even for his own liberal coalition partners.

"This man is simply no longer tolerable — at least for responsible politicians concerned about a

dependable Germany in a peaceful Europe," it said.

It called on East Germany's own conservative alliance to stop inviting Kohl to its campaign rallies for the general election on March 18.

Kohl, the East German conservatives' main electoral asset, argues that only a united Germany can legally renounce claims to territories of the 1987 German Reich handed over after World War II to Poland and the Soviet Union.

The Christian Democratic chancellor's stance, which has alarmed Poland and angered Bonn's other European neighbours, appears aimed at recovering voters from the far-right Republican Party in next December's West German election.

East Germany recognised the Polish border in 1950. East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow is expected to join the Soviet Union in demanding binding guarantees for the Polish border when he meets Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow Tuesday.

U.N. conference calls for action against illiteracy

JOMTIEN, Thailand (AP) — Delegates to an international conference on education called Monday for urgent action against illiteracy, which affects almost a billion people.

A top United Nations official, Federico Mayoral, told the meeting that the decade has begun with a historic opportunity for peace and an end to ideological confrontation, but added:

"How can we hope to advance on the road to freedom and democracy as long as one in three adults in the world remains illiterate?"

Mayoral, head of the U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said almost a billion adults worldwide were illiterate and nearly all were in developing countries.

More than 100 million children have no access to basic education, also mostly in the poor nations, he said in a speech.

Mayoral was among the more than 1,200 representatives from 155 countries at the five-day world conference on education for all, the largest meeting ever on education. The conference at Jomtien, a beach resort about 110 kilometres southwest of Bangkok, is mainly sponsored by the United Nations.

It is expected to endorse a world declaration on providing education for all people and on a framework for achieving this.

In a speech, Thailand's Princess Sirindhorn called poverty the root cause of illiteracy and said it was the duty of all people to fight it.

Modern technology thus far has not helped reduce illiteracy, said President Hussein Mahamad Ershad of impoverished Bangladesh.

Besides Ershad, two other heads of state are attending the conference: President Boris Yeltsin of Ecuador and President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, who came with a delegation of more than 100 people. President Mamnoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives had been expected but for reasons unknown here, did not arrive.

Mayoral said illiteracy was most acute among women in developing countries. In those countries, an average of half the women are illiterate and in some nations, the figure is as high as 75 per cent, he said.

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Mayoral said illiteracy was most acute among women in developing countries. In those countries, an average of half the women are illiterate and in some nations, the figure is as high as 75 per cent, he said.

S. Africa sends troops into Ciskei

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — South Africa sent troops into the Ciskei homeland Monday to suppress rioting mobs that burned factories and looted shops after the territory's authoritarian president was ousted in a coup.

South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said the government had intervened at the request of Brig.-Gen. Oupa Gqozo of the Ciskei army, who seized power in a military coup Sunday in the nominally independent homeland. Botha said South Africa troops would restore calm.

More than 50 factories, many of them owned by Israeli and Taiwanese firms, were set ablaze Monday as major rioting and looting flared for a second day in Mdantsane, a sprawling township and industrial area in east Ciskei near the South African city of East London, officials said.

Mobs also attacked and burned businesses and shops in Fort Jackson, Dumbasa and Zwelitsha, they said.

"All the shops and factories were burning... everybody was looting and there was complete chaos," said an employee at a local hotel.

Some onlookers tried to stop the looting, but the local police made little effort to intervene, according to witnesses.

Several shots were fired, apparently by security forces, but there were no reports of injuries, they said.

Rioters, many of them drunk, broke into shops, removed the contents and then set buildings ablaze with firebombs, the eyewitnesses said. Looters used wheelbarrows to haul away stoves, refrigerators and other

goods taken from shops, officials said.

"Everybody in Mdantsane has TVs now," said one man watching the looting.

South African police were patrolling the area between East London in South Africa and Mdantsane in Ciskei to prevent rioting or looting on South African territory, police officials said.

Ciskei, a 9,000-square-kilometre territory, is not recognised as sovereign by any country other than South Africa. White-ruled South Africa has made Ciskei and three other homelands independent as part of efforts to create separate homelands for blacks, but no other nations recognise them as independent.

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U.S. faces era of 'violent peace,' military leaders say

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's top soldiers say the cold war may be over, but there are plenty of new enemies that justify military spending — drug runners, terrorists, Third World despots and even ill spills.

And they haven't entirely dismissed the Soviet threat, even as Moscow begins pulling its troops out of Eastern Europe.

"The world has entered an era of violent peace," says Adm. Carlisle Trost, the navy's top officer. There is less chance that the superpowers will lob nuclear missiles at each other, but more frequent and more lethal conflict among rival Third World nations, he told Congress recently.

The message is that not only is the military needed for its traditional mission, but that military might must be tailored to battle threats not previously considered big risks to the future of Western democracy.

It's unclear how this notion will be accepted by congressmen. Many lawmakers see the outbreak of peace as a chance to rein in the \$300 billion a-year military and use the money for social and other programmes — the so-called "peace dividend."

Sen. John Warner of Virginia, the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee and a strong supporter of the military, told Army Secretary Michael Stone at a hearing on Feb. 27 that he'd better find a more explicit mission than "stability."

"What do you put on a recruiting poster now — 'Join the army and become a stability force'?" Warner said.

Instability in the Third World is emerging as one of the U.S. military's main arguments against stripping it of manpower and undermanned weaponry.

Some private analysts say the Defence Department legitimately is concerned by a proliferation of modern arms, including chemical weapons, in the Third World. But they say military leaders also may be overstating the immediacy of these dangers.

A civil war in a Third World country, for example, may pose less danger to U.S. security now than a few years ago, when Moscow may have been more likely to exploit such openings for the advancement of communism, said Alexis Cain, an analyst at the Defence Budget Project, a non-Partisan research group in Washington.

The military leaders, however, insist it's too soon to relax on any front.

"Perhaps we are at the end of the cold war. However, this does not mean the end of military rivalry among nations," Trost said. "It may well mean increased instability ... and violence."

Thus the U.S. military must be prepared to act as a force for stability in every corner of the globe, the military chiefs say.

Each service's civilian and uniformed chiefs have testified before Congress in recent weeks on President George Bush's plan for a slight cut in next year's defence budget.

And each has ticked off the same list of security threats said to be replacing the traditional worry about a Soviet attack on Western Europe or America:

— Third World countries with increasingly sophisticated weaponry. Gen. Carl Vuono, the army chief of staff, cited Libya as an example. He said Libya has more battle tanks

than either France or Britain. Several other countries, including Syria, India and Iraq, each have more battle tanks than France and Britain combined, Vuono said.

— Drug traffickers. Stone told Congress on Feb. 21 that the drug trade has created "an unprecedented and perplexing threat to our national security."

Compounding the problem, he said, is evidence that terrorist groups are becoming more involved in narcotics trafficking as a revenue source and a network for buying arms.

— Terrorism. Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged to Congress that military force is "only infrequently" the right answer to terrorism, but Stone said terrorism was a "primary threat" to American citizens.

The military says it also can make itself useful at home, helping civilian authorities respond to disasters such as last year's Exxon oil spill in Alaska.

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COLUMN

Trop Belle Pour Toi wins top awards

PARIS (AP) — Trop Belle Pour Toi (too good for you), the story of a salesman who drops his too-perfect life with a beautiful wife for a passionate affair with his dumpy secretary, won five Cesars including Best Movie in France's equivalents of the Academy Awards. Bertrand Blier, who also won